

Mr Healey ponders as five ministers join leadership race

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Mr Benn issues 'manifesto'

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Threat to Thorpe leadership is postponed

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

Mr Jeremy Thorpe will not be challenged for the leadership of the Liberal Party until the autumn at the earliest. Those Liberal MPs who believed he ought to resign or wanted an early election backed away from their case at a meeting of the Parliamentary Liberal Party last night.

The reasons for such an unexpected change were not all immediately apparent, but a key factor is thought to have been the position adopted by Mr Grimond, Mr Thorpe's predecessor as leader.

Opinion had been building up among Liberal MPs that if Mr Thorpe would resign Mr Grimond should be elected to his place. That formula would have been widely accepted inside the party and would have allowed Mr Thorpe to relinquish the leadership with dignity.

But Mr Thorpe told Mr David Steel, one of the leading supporters of the proposal, that he was not prepared to stand down. Such a move, he said, would appear to be an admission of defeat. Further, it was wrong for the Liberal Party to panic.

Two MPs involved in Mr Steel's proposal were Mr John Pardon and Mr Evelyn Hoosen, both of whom have declared themselves contenders for the leadership. They had said, however, that they would not challenge Mr Grimond if he could be persuaded to stand.

Mr Grimond told them that he had no intention of seeking the leadership while Mr Thorpe remained.

So, having agreed earlier to fight in an early election for the leadership, Mr Thorpe no longer faces that prospect. The party's constitutional committee will continue to draft proposals for a new method for selecting a leader. Its plan will have to be ratified at the Liberal Assembly in the autumn.

Although the effect of the proposals will be to turn the assembly into an American-style convention, a change of that kind may also give Mr Thorpe the chance of recouping some of the popularity he may have lost in recent weeks.

That loss may not in any case be as great as sometimes supposed. Many party activists have told officials that they still fully support Mr Thorpe.

A group of Liberal candidates in marginal seats issued a statement last night's meeting, said: "We are deeply concerned that some Liberal MPs seem unaware that the loyalty to Jeremy Thorpe of the majority of Liberals in the country has been reinforced by the insidious campaign of insinuation and unsubstantiated allegations against him."

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Two party officials, Mrs Margaret Wingfield, president, and Mr Kenneth Vane, chairman, were present at last night's two-hour meeting and are believed to have expressed similar sentiments to that of the candidates.



Mrs Anne Armstrong, the American Ambassador, going yesterday to present her letters of credence to the Queen, with the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps.

Commission urges aid for Fleet Street soon

By a Staff Reporter

An immediate infusion of up to £55m is necessary to help national newspapers to overcome their endemic financial difficulties, the Royal Commission on the Press recommends in an interim report published yesterday.

They recommend that assistance should be drawn as far as possible from the private sector, and in particular from Finance for Industry (PFI), which provides medium-term loans to industry.

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, told the House of Commons that the Government agreed with the commission a general subsidy was unnecessary and unjustified.

He added: "We shall be inviting the Fleet Street Committee (the joint standing committee representing newspaper and publishing interests) to tell us by the end of June what specific de-manning and compensation figures they are agreed upon."

By the end of July we shall ask individual houses to submit a general statement of their financial position in terms of costs and savings."

The commission has been assured by PFI that loans would be available to newspapers which could meet their borrowing requirements.

However, the commission accepts that some newspapers will not be able to meet PFI's requirements. It recommends that in such cases, if need be, the Government should grant loans under the Industry Act, 1972.

As a further incentive to newspapers, the commission urges the Government to grant relief on the interest paid on loans.

Our Labour Staff writes: The TUC printing industries committee yesterday welcomed the interim report, which would "respond positively" to help to ensure the survival of newspapers.

The report was welcomed by the National Union of Journalists, but Mr Kenneth Morrison, general secretary, said that new technology would be useful only if it met the varying editorial needs of newspapers.

"It is vital that before decisions about new production techniques are made there should be the fullest consultation with, and agreement by, the journalists responsible for editorial content and presentation."

"Disguised subsidy": Mirror Group Newspapers said the reduced interest rate would be a disguised subsidy and the group would not need to call on such a loan (see Press Association reports).

Report, page 4 Parliamentary report, page 8 Sheila Black, page 16 Leading article, page 17

Central banks fight to avert break up of European 'snake'

By Melvyn Westlake Economics Staff

Intense and unrelenting pressure brought the European currency block near to disintegration on the Continental money market yesterday.

Heavy selling of the Dutch, Belgian, Danish and Norwegian currencies and buying of the Deutsche mark forced central banks to intervene on a large scale in a desperate attempt to preserve the European currency "snake".

Outside the "snake", the lira suffered a decline unprecedented in modern history. At one stage it plunged 5½ per cent. It has now been devalued in the market place by 27 per cent since the Italian government was first forced to close the local currency markets in mid-January. Yesterday's fall occurred in spite of substantial support.

Local currency dealers said that the Rome monetary authorities appeared to be near a state of panic.

There was mounting concern that the lira's fall could undermine the draconian package of measures that Italian ministers were attempting to hammer out. The currency's fall coincided with figures showing a large balance of payments deficit for January and widespread fears that any attempt to impose harsh wage controls in Italy would meet powerful political resistance. There are now 880 lira to the dollar compared with 680 at the beginning of the year; the comparative figures for the pound are 1,690 and 1,384.

The French franc, which was withdrawn from the Euro-Currency block in the early hours of Monday morning, was weakened. But sterling was largely left on the sidelines.

With only light support from the Bank of England it rose against the dollar by 0.90 US cents, to close at \$192.30. The Swiss franc, which although outside the "snake", is along with the Deutsche mark, was

the traditionally strong European currencies, was driven sharply upwards.

In the Hague a spokesman for the Dutch finance ministry last night denied rumours that the "snake" had broken up.

The denial came after all the weaker currencies within the European currency block had broken out of the statutory margins within which participating governments are obliged to operate. This happened as Continental central banks withdrew from the market at the end of the day's formal trading.

In late trading only the Deutsche mark and the Swedish crown remained within the specified margins, provoking one currency dealer to refer to the "death rattle of the snake". There are formally still seven currencies participating.

In a desperate attempt to prop up their ailing currencies both Denmark and Belgium yesterday raised their bank rates by one full percentage point.

It is believed that the Belgium central bank has spent about a quarter of the country's immediately available foreign currency reserves in the past few days. Much of this money has flowed into Frankfurt.

The West German federal bank is believed to have provided £150m support for weaker currencies yesterday bringing the total this week to £250m.

This support had to be given in spite of the fact that the foreign exchanges would be closed today or that the Deutsche mark would be revealed upwards.

In Bonn Dr Armin Gruenewald, a government spokesman, said that there was no economic justification for such a revelation. Speculation to this effect was based on a misinterpretation of Germany's offer on Sunday night, made in order to keep France within the "snake". This offer was now closed.

Business News, page 21

Palace is silent on Princess

Buckingham Palace maintained a discreet silence yesterday amid growing speculation Lord Snowdon may separate.

After Tuesday night's statement that the situation had been discussed by the Royal Family, Sir Martin Charteris, the Queen's private secretary, said yesterday: "There will be no statement today."

The Queen was present yesterday at a regular meeting of the Privy Council arranged more than two months ago.

Prime Minister: The Queen has talked with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, about the possible separation, an Anglican church spokesman said yesterday (see Associated Press reports from Barbados).

The Archbishop, in Barbados on his way to a meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, confirmed later that he had talked with the palace. It was stated that the Queen talked with him on the telephone on Tuesday night.

Separation likely, page 6

Students in Paris clash with police

From Richard Wigg Paris, March 17

When riot police and students clashed in the Latin Quarter of Paris today, in a pitched battle they exchanged tear gas grenades for paving stones.

The clash with the police came after the students insisted on trying to march to the offices of Mme Alice Saunier-Seïte, the Secretary of State for the Universities, although the way was barred.

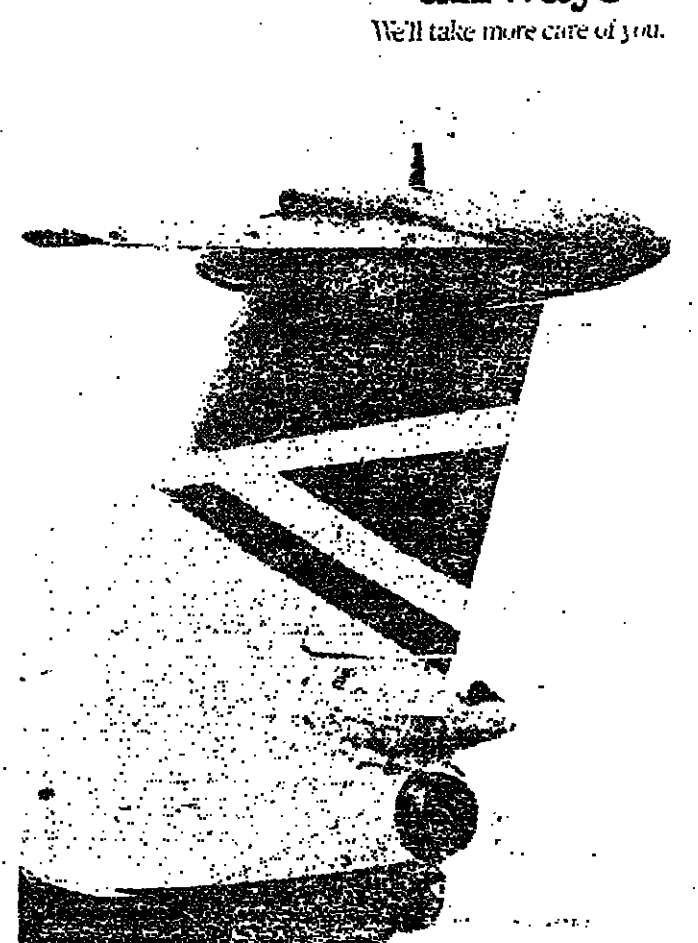
Two students were reported to have been seriously injured in earlier clashes at a Paris university faculty, when left and right-wing youths fought each other. Right-wing youths also threw a petrol bomb into a student union meeting about Spain. Several students suffered burns.

Today's demonstration by some 3,000 Paris students, to be followed by demonstrations throughout France tomorrow, is against fresh reforms in university education.

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Mr Ford now seems sure party nomination

Fred Emery

Mr Ford and Mr Jimmy Carter have decided to hold their primaries held yesterday. Mr Ford recording his straight victory in Texas.

His Republican challenger, Mr Ronald Reagan, still said he was still doing well. He said that his fight was a strong President.

Mr Jimmy Carter, who was not howling against his most contenders, Senator Jackson and Representative Morris Udall. But he shifted himself at the firm crisis front runner. Two running, once in a

virtually all the votes, the unofficial result

REPUBLICANS	
Ford	447,760 (59%)
Reagan	305,257 (40%)
DEMOCRATS	
Carter	617,839 (45%)
Wallace	535,625 (38%)
Shriver	207,562 (16%)
Harris	96,343 (6%)

Wo die in bomb attack

Christopher Walker

No people were killed and nine were injured last night when a car bomb exploded outside a Roman Catholic bar in town of Dungannon, Co. one.

he attack took place as St. Nick's Night celebrations in full swing at the Hill of Ebor, about 100 yards out

southern state, and now with the blue collar vote of an industrial state, he has defeated Governor George Wallace of Alabama, whose defiance carries declining conviction.

Both winners had been expected to win a great victory, but the surprise was with a rather lower than average turnout, Mr Ford's was his best result this year. So was Mr Carter's and Mr Carter did especially well in the separate elections for convention delegates.

In campaign terms, Mr Carter is now looking to his contests with Senator Henry Jackson on April 6 in New York, where Mr Jackson is supposedly far ahead of him in organization and against Representative Morris Udall in Wisconsin on the same day.

There were predictable casualties in Illinois. The Kennedy brother-in-law, came third with 16 per cent, and bowed out with good grace.

Mr Fred Harris's populism again failed to catch much fire, and he must be near to withdrawal.

Clearly only some unforeseeable disaster can prevent Mr Ford securing the Republican nomination. The Ford men were telling Mr Reagan that he should now join ranks with Mr Ford, and let the Republicans concentrate on the much harder task of beating the Democrats.

Front runners, page 10

Chancellor says new pay limit is vital

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Earnings level held steady in January

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No Liberal link with man on gun charge

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Petrol price war ending

The cut-price petrol war may be nearly over after a substantial rise in the cost of surplus petrol in Rotterdam—main source of the cut-price for the cut-price companies—prices have risen by nearly 4p a gallon in the past six weeks.

Boy shot in Israel

Tension was mounting on the West Bank last night as hospital doctors fought to save the life of an Arab boy shot in the head during a clash at Bethlehem between Israeli soldiers and schoolchildren throwing stones. There were other incidents elsewhere in Israel.

No film show

A controversial documentary film including a scene showing a seven-year-old boy being questioned in a police cell will not be allowed a public showing, the governors of the British Film Institute have decided.

Transport safety: Security measures are being stepped up on buses and trams in an attempt to prevent more bombs being planted by IRA terrorists.

Cold comfort: Dr B. J. Mason, FRC, director general of the Meteorological Office, suggests that the climate may change to a long cold spell.

Britain to reinforce flanks of Nato

British reinforcements for the flanks of Nato were announced in the Defence White Paper. They will involve the Royal Marine Commandos in northern Norway, and both the Army and RAF in Italy. The White Paper sounds a warning about the growing imbalance of forces in favour of the Warsaw Pact countries.

On other pages

Letter, page 17 Letters: On Nato defences against Russia, from Dr Christopher Bertram and others; on Mr Wilson's resignation, from Miss Mary Southern and others.

Leading articles: Royal Commission on the Press; Italian Social Democrats; Features, pages 11 and 16.

Sheila Black on Fleet Street and the Government; Roy Lewis on the evening edition in Rhodesia; Bernard Levin writes a friendly farewell to Mr Wilson; Fashion by Truett Collection.

Arts, page 12 Kath Laughton interviewed by Roger Barbraud; Irving Wardle on Parrot Post (Royal Court Theatre); Noddy Chatter on Housewife Superior 77 (Apollo Theatre); John Percival on Amazon Forest at Oxford; William Mann on King Roger (Coliseum).

Diary, page 16 Mr Wedgwood Benn, who has been excluding references to his education from *Who's Who* for some years, now cuts his whole entry from 35 lines to three.

Books, page 17 Michael Ratcliffe reviews *Soundings: the Secret Diaries*, by Abbot Speer; David Piper discusses books on Consilience.

Obituary, page 18 Sir Luciano Visconti; Dr G. M. E. Dobson, 1900-1975, pages 17 and 20.

Football: Liverpool and West Ham the only British survivors after quarter-finals of three European competitions; Queens: Night Nurse wins Championship Hurdle at Cheltenham; Rugby Union: England team change for Paris match; Rowing: Boat Race preparations; Business News, pages 21-27.

Stock markets: Shares rallied from a 2.2 fall at midday to close 2.8 down at 29.2. Business feature: Clifford Webb on the tangle of signs before the car industry that the market is beginning to pick up. Business Diary: Could Joe Gurney be the next chairman of the National Coal Board? Trinity House pilots try to scupper a new ship of state.

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HOME NEWS

Concorde services to Washington due to begin on May 24

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

British Airways and Air France will begin services with the Concorde super-jet on May 24, while testing in the American courts their right to fly to New York.

In an announcement issued simultaneously yesterday in London, Paris and New York, the two airlines said that they had filed a suit to have action by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, operator of Kennedy airport, New York, to "prevent, delay or impede" their services declared unlawful.

The authority has said that Concorde flights should be held up until six months' operating experience has been gained. In addition, it was said that the American Secretary of Transportation, who ruled that Concorde should be allowed to fly into both New York and Washington for a trial period of 16 months.

It is the route to New York which both British Airways and Air France really want, and the decision to start operations to Washington must be seen as little more than establishing a toe-hold for super-jet services to the United States.

New York would generate a high level of business traffic, ready to pay the premium of one-fifth above the first class fare for super-jet travel across the north Atlantic recently agreed by the International Air Transport Association. Traffic to and from Washington consists largely of diplomats and their staffs.

The fare for travel in the Concorde between London and Washington, a journey which will take three hours and 55 minutes, compared with eight hours and 20 minutes by subsonic airliner, will be £352 single. That is £61 more than the first class subsonic fare.

Which of the two airlines will be the first to land fare-paying passengers in the United States by Concorde was not clear last night. According to the timetables, British Airways should arrive at Washington about eight hours ahead of Air France, but I understand that talks are taking place between the two airlines with a view to agreeing simultaneous departures from London and Paris.

According to Mr Trevor Glover, manager of British Airways in the United States, British state airline will operate to Washington each Saturday and return the next day. Flights will (in local times) leave London at 12.45 pm and arrive in Washington at 11.40 am. They will leave Washington at 12.45 pm and arrive in London at 9.35 pm.

Mr Glover said: "We have about two thousand requests for reservations on our early flights from the United States to London, with a similar number out of London."

Our suit against the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey must not be seen as an attack on the port authority. We have had a close and friendly relationship with the port authority for many years, and this has not changed. What is being sought is clarification of the law."

Inquiry on reported sale of tank parts to South Africa

By Our Defence Correspondent
Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, has appointed Sir Philip Allen, retired civil servant, to inquire into transactions between the Ministry of Defence and Aviation Jersey Ltd. Ministry deliveries to the firm have been suspended after an allegation about the supply of tank parts to South Africa.

The ministry stated in London last night: "For a number of years the Ministry of Defence has dealt with Aviation Jersey Ltd in the sale of spare parts of Centurion tank engines and equipment which, with government knowledge and consent, is 'classified' overseas. These countries do not include South Africa. The Government are seriously concerned by the report that it implies a clear breach of government policy. In the light of this report, all current supplies of Ministry of Defence material to the firm have been stopped. It is understood that the authorities in Jersey are investigating whether there have been any irregularities in either the application for a licence for the goods in question or the procedures relating to them. The Centurions has been one of Britain's most successful tanks since the war, with 3,000 sold overseas. South Africa,

which bought 100, is among 13 countries where the Centurion is still in service. The tank was a principal weapon system used by the Israelis during the October war in 1973, but the Israeli version has been heavily modified. The parts supplied to Aviation Jersey Ltd are believed to have come from an Ordnance depot at Chilwell, Nottinghamshire.

The ban on arms to South Africa, imposed by the Labour Government in October, 1964, was lifted under the Conservatives in 1970, but reintroduced by Labour in 1974. Jersey's Attorney General, Mr Vernon Jones, was reported last night to have launched an inquiry (our Guernsey correspondent writes).

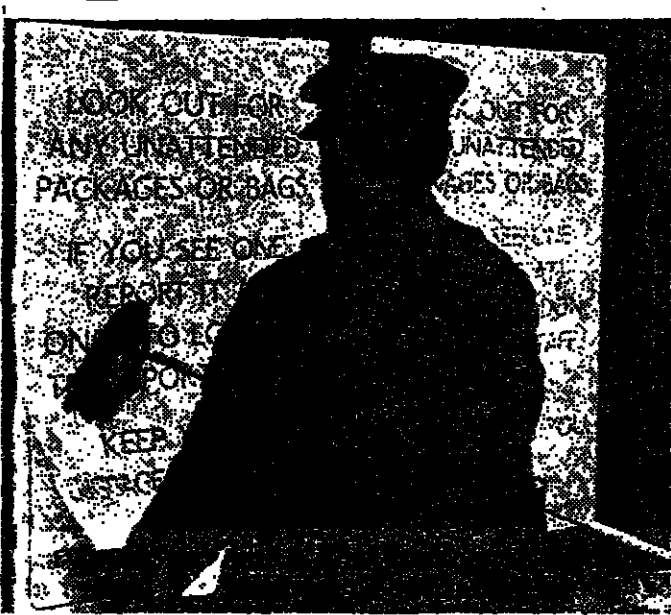
The allegations were reported by Channel Television News after its investigations in association with Independent Television News, London. It was alleged that tank engines were being shipped on scheduled Jersey service from the United Kingdom into Jersey, then forwarded to Rotterdam before final shipment to South Africa, where one address was described simply as a PO box number.

Barge salvage begins

Work has begun in Scapa Flow, Orkney, on the salvaging of two barges which sank during gales in January off the oil terminal island of Flotta.

Fisherman lost at sea

Mr William Johnson, aged 36, was reported overdue by a fishing boat yesterday and drowned 20 miles off Berwickshire.



Above: The Tube train damaged in Tuesday's explosion at Wood Green, London. Below: Warning posters are put up.

Armed police to travel on Tube

By Clive Borrell

A thousand detectives will travel on London Tube trains today in an attempt to trap the IRA terrorists who have planted three bombs this week. All will be in plainclothes and armed. Many will be disguised as businessmen with briefcases and umbrellas and some women who will mingle with the thousands of commuters travelling to work will also be carrying guns.

The decision to mount the operation was made last night after a conference at Scotland Yard between Mr John Wilson, the Assistant Commissioner in charge of crime investigations in London, and London Transport security officials.

A senior Scotland Yard officer said last night: "Every train will be supervised one way or the other by a police officer and railway stations and underground stations will also have men available. Guns will be issued and available and it may be that some women officers will be carrying guns in their handbags, while their male colleagues will have them in their briefcases."

The latest move by Scotland Yard comes after a recent operation in the West End and 700 men, many in plainclothes and armed, patrol the streets waiting for terrorist activity. Each officer is in radio contact with the information room at Scotland Yard.

Security measures put into operation by London Transport include searches of trains and buses before they go into service and afterwards at night. The extra precautions come after the discovery yesterday of a 5lb gelignite bomb under a car in a Tube train at Wansford, north-west London. A carriage inspector hurled the device on to the track and experts defused it.

Underground stations will also have men available. Guns will be issued and available and it may be that some women officers will be carrying guns in their handbags, while their male colleagues will have them in their briefcases."

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Mr Cosgrave tells US to stop Irish killers' funds

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, March 17
Mr Cosgrave, the Prime Minister of Ireland, gave American politicians a lesson in basic Irish realities today when he addressed a joint session of Congress. He had a shambolic in his lecture and had just addressed another on President Ford, and many in his audience were similarly accoutred in his and the occasion's honour.

"We have consistently rejected men of violence in every election in each part of Ireland which they have contested," he said. "These men of violence are not represented by a single democratically elected member of our Parliament, nor have they been represented by any member of any recently elected parliamentary body in Northern Ireland."

"Few politically motivated groups in the public eye have ever in any country been so decisively and overwhelmingly rejected by the people."

He continued: "As Prime Minister of Ireland, let me say this as clearly and as emphatically as I can. The Irish Government, acting for the people of Ireland, repudiates violence as a means of achieving unity."

He pointed out that much of the weaponry and money which has killed 1,400 people since 1969 comes from North America.

"There are in this country some people who contribute to the most direct way possible to violence in Ireland, by sending guns and explosives for use in Northern Ireland."

The Prime Minister said that those people were not helping to end the British presence in Ireland. Members of Congress, with their green ties and carnations applauded dutifully.

Mr Callaghan faces busy days with Mr Gromyko

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, will be spending much of his time during the run-up to the Labour Party's first ballot for Prime Minister next week in talks with Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Arrangements for Mr Gromyko's official visit, which starts on Monday, were completed yesterday, when the Soviet Ambassador saw Mr Callaghan at the Foreign Office. It is going to be an extensive discussion, with three sessions of talks and a meeting with Mr Wilson.

Southern Africa will be the most urgent item on the agenda. Much attention will also be paid to ways of stimulating Anglo-Soviet trade, which is still faltering.

It will be recalled that Mr Wilson called in the Soviet Ambassador last week to impress upon the Soviet Union British concern at the deterioration of events in southern Africa.

Today Mr Sauvagen, the French Foreign Minister, will pay a flying visit to London. He arrives after lunch, will have a meeting with Mr Callaghan in the afternoon and call on Mr Wilson, attend a dinner in his honour in the evening, and then fly back to Paris.

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Such a uniquely important accumulation will never again be awarded to one man," the Ministry of Defence said yesterday. "It could only have been assembled by an emperor, a king or a crown prince—and

Edward was all three—at the zenith of a great empire. Nowhere can it be seen."

Before his third birthday Prince Edward, as he then was, received Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Medal 1897 in gold, and later the three great orders, those of the Garter, the Thistle and the now extinct Order of St Patrick.

With them will be exhibited six other British orders, the

Chancellor argues that new pact with unions on pay limits is of paramount importance

By Our Political Correspondent

The paramount importance to the future of the economy of a further agreement with "our trade union comrades" on wage limitation was again emphasised by Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday.

He was speaking at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party called so that he could hear the views of backbenchers on what this year's Budget should contain.

The key to what I do in the Budget must be my judgment of the rate of inflation in Britain over the next 18 months," he said. "That, in turn, will depend above all on the pay limit set by the TUC this summer for the next pay round."

"I think there is now a growing recognition throughout the trade union movement that for many years to come it is the rate of inflation in Britain that will determine the level of employment in Britain; that there is a direct relationship between the level of pay received by those who have a job and the number of jobs the economy can support."

Mr Healey said that the £6 pay limit had transformed Britain's prospects for the next 12 months.

"We are guaranteed a steady acceleration in the rate of inflation," he said. "No serious observer now argues that we

have no chance of reaching our target, under 10 per cent, by the end of this year."

Mr Healey said that in the last eight months Britain's rate of inflation had been "only about 50 per cent above that of our competitors abroad," against two or three times as high a year ago.

But we had a long way to go "before we got down to international levels, as the foreign exchange markets reminded us last week." But he added: "It looks as if the recession, has reached bottom in Britain and output is slowly turning upwards."

But the party must accept that there would be a limit to the speed with which recovery could be boosted if they were to repeat the tragedies of the Heath Government, when the attempt to race ahead too fast produced a total seizure of the economy in 1973, with a crippling balance of payments deficit.

That was why, this year's Budget was so crucial; it would be the most important of this Parliament.

For the next year, he said, the TUC General Council had committed themselves to the same target as the Government's: a further reduction in the rate of inflation to a figure well below 10 per cent.

He said the Labour Party, with the leadership election imminent, was at a most important point in its history. He wanted the Chancellor to recognise that the different sections of the party.

Mr Frank Hooley, MP for Sheffield, Healey, thought of Labour could not succeed in a general election if unemployment continued at the present level.

He suggested a hearing allowance of £2 a week for old age pensioners and people on supplementary benefits between October and March.

Mr David Barnett, General and Municipal Workers' Union, had said in their "clarion call" to the Labour movement on Monday, that a great responsibility fell on him, and he had been discussing the difficulties with them for many weeks.

Mr Healey said each side had much to learn from the special experience and insights of the other. Our trade union comrades have an unparalleled understanding of what it all means on the shop floor."

In the debate there were one or two calls for reflection and there was no mention about Mr Healey's attack on the left last week. Mr Eric Heffer, former minister and one of the leading members of the Tribune group, said in a substantial plea for decorum.

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target when the current pay round is only a half-way through," Mr Healey said. "I think the view will be determined in large part by the nature of the coming Budget."

He recognized, as Mr Jack Jones, the Transport and General Workers' Union leader, Mr Hugh Scanlon, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and Mr David Barnett, General and Municipal Workers' Union, had said in their "clarion call" to the Labour movement on Monday, that a great responsibility fell on him, and he had been discussing the difficulties with them for many weeks.

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British uncertainties may delay EEC work

From Dan van der Vat

Political uncertainty in Britain after Mr Wilson's resignation announcement may delay important European Community business, according to West German Government sources.

There is much scepticism about the official motives given for the resignation while a search goes on for the "subterranean motives" as one radio commentator put it.

More regret: Sigvard Moro, the Italian Prime Minister, yesterday expressed his regret at Mr Wilson's decision to resign.

He added: "I am very sorry that, in the European context, we are losing the collaboration of such a talented colleague at such a delicate and important moment for the future of the Community."

The work done by Harold Wilson will, however, remain as a lofty example and a sure point of reference. I shall be very happy in the future to be able once again to meet this eminent friend, with whom I have had so many opportunities to work fruitfully."

Many commentators dismiss Mr Wilson's stated reasons for resigning and conclude that he did so because of the crises in the economy and the Labour Party's "kitchen cabinet" of personal advisers at 10 Downing Street, only two of the more important members of his staff seem certain to leave with him.

They are Mr Joseph Haines, his press secretary since 1970 and formerly political correspondent of the Sun, and Lady Falkender, formerly Mrs Marcia Williams. She has been Mr Wilson's political secretary since he first became Prime Minister in 1964; before that, since 1956, she was his private secretary.

Both were personal choices and both assume that Mr Wilson's successor will want to make his appointments to those important posts.

Lady Falkender has indicated that she would like to devote more time to the House of Lords, to which Mr Wilson elevated her in 1974; presumably she will continue to help Mr Wilson when he becomes a backbencher and, no doubt, reverts to the role of historian of his premiership.

Mr Haines is not to be drawn about his future. He has said that he will be many of his speeches during the past seven years, and has been one of his closest confidants.

Mr Haines's fierce loyalty to the end of the year at the earliest. An election without a Bill on hand raises the spectre of a Scottish Nationalist triumph, aided by vote-splitting in the west of Scotland by the breakaway SNP.

Delegates will also be anxious to know whether Mr William Ross, the long-serving friend and ally of Mr Wilson as Secretary of State for Scotland, will retire as his leader has done.

If Mr Ross, aged 65, decided to step down, the way would be open to appoint a new Scottish minister, more obviously enthusiastic about devolution. Dr Dickson Mabon, Labour MP for Greenock and Port Glasgow, clashed with Mr Wilson about

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Only two of staff at No 10 likely to go

By Roger Berthoud

Despite Mr Wilson's reputation for having a large "kitchen cabinet" of personal advisers at 10 Downing Street, only two of the more important members of his staff seem certain to leave with him.

They are Mr Joseph Haines, his press secretary since 1970 and formerly political correspondent of the Sun, and Lady Falkender, formerly Mrs Marcia Williams. She has been Mr Wilson's political secretary since he first became Prime Minister in 1964; before that, since 1956, she was his private secretary.

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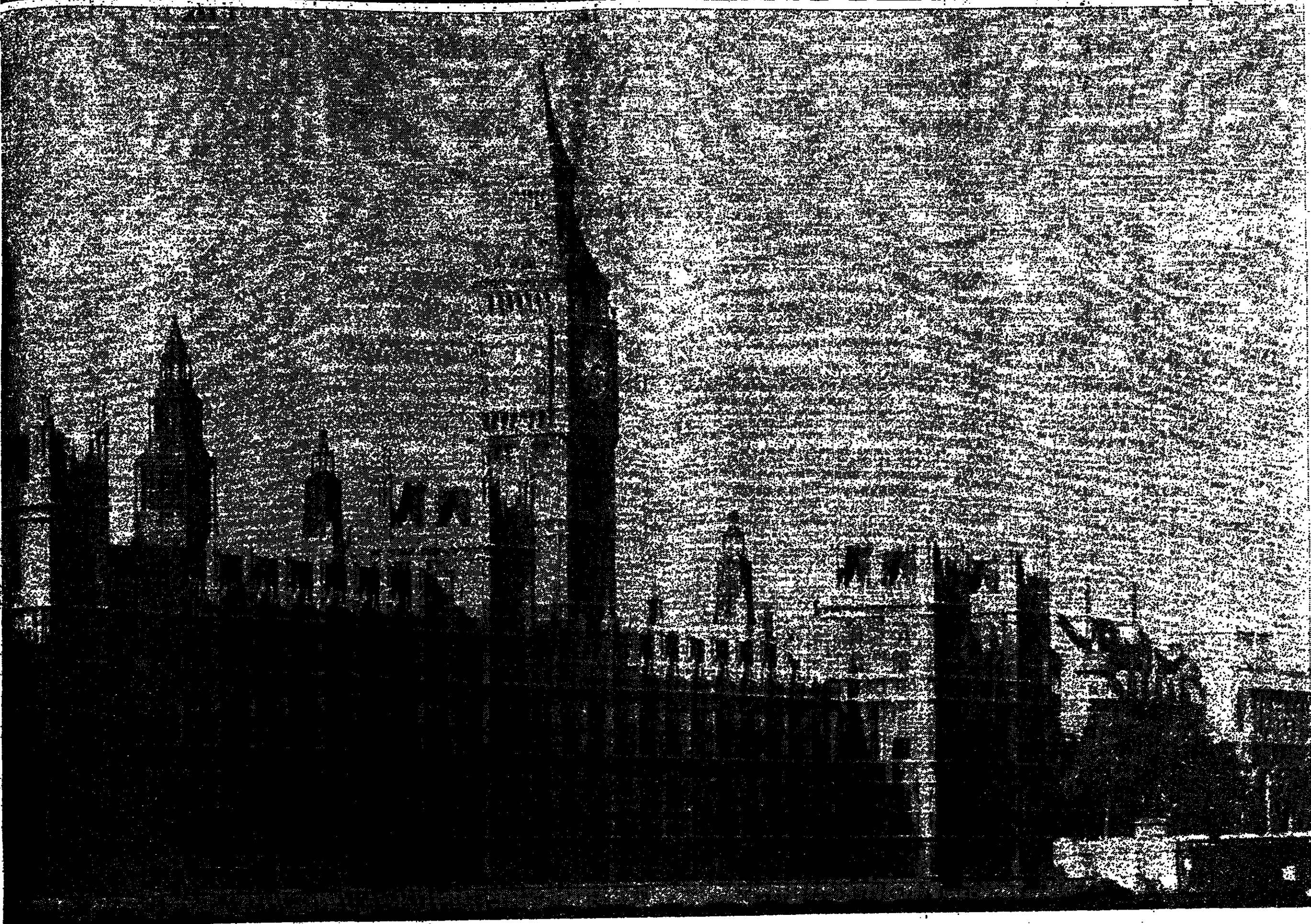
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BIGGER B. CAL



HERE BEGINS THE BIGGER B. CAL

The White Paper presented to Parliament on Future Civil Aviation policy gave clear recognition to British Caledonian's role as the other British flag Carrier.

This seal of approval creates an environment in which British Caledonian can grow, extending its already considerable service to travellers. It signals the birth of a bigger, and better, B. Cal which is good news for everyone.

BIGGER B. CAL - NEW SERVICE TO ALGIERS AND TUNIS

From March 22nd British Caledonian will fly twice a week to Algiers - no other British scheduled airline flies there. Only one other airline, our good friends Air-Algérie fly there from London.

And on March 24th we are re-instating a weekly service to Tunis which increases to twice weekly from May 1st.

These are in addition to flights to Casablanca and Tripoli. You can fly to all these four cities from London Gatwick.

British Caledonian fly to more destinations in Africa from the U.K. than any other scheduled airline.

BIGGER B. CAL - INCREASED FREQUENCY TO ZAMBIA

From April 1st, British Caledonian will increase the frequency of its service to Lusaka, Zambia from once a week to three times a week. British Caledonian will then be the only British scheduled airline flying to Zambia.

BIGGER B. CAL - INCREASED FREQUENCY LONDON/GLASGOW/LONDON

From March 23rd there will be five flights a day every weekday, plus a new service from Glasgow and Newcastle to Amsterdam (in association with KLM). And British Caledonian offer bigger fare savings on many flights within the U.K.

BIGGER B. CAL - INCREASED FREQUENCY TO NIGERIA

From March 23rd there will be an additional flight to Nigeria - British Caledonian now fly there every day of the week. British Caledonian is the only British scheduled airline flying to Nigeria, (in association with Nigeria Airways).

BIGGER B. CAL - MORE DESTINATIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Later this year and subject to Government approval, British Caledonian add Bogotá, Caracas and Lima to their long list of destinations in South America.

Other South American destinations include Recife, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo (in association with Varig) Buenos Aires and Santiago.

BIGGER B. CAL - NEW SCHEDULED SERVICES TO NORTH AMERICA

The British Government confirmed that B. Cal will retain its licence to serve Atlanta and Houston. We will be the sole British scheduled airline designated to operate this route when it becomes available for international services.

BIGGER B. CAL - MORE FIRST CLASS SEATS

In answer to popular demand, British Caledonian have increased the number of first class seats, so that more passengers can enjoy first class service on our long haul scheduled flights.

BIGGER B. CAL - GOOD NEWS FOR EXPORTERS

In addition to cargo carried on our

450 scheduled flights to Europe, Africa, South America and within the U.K., B. Cal are shortly launching an all cargo service to Nigeria, (in association with Nigeria Airways).

BIGGER B. CAL - ADVANCED BOOKING CHARTERS

Biggest range of low cost flights to North America and Ghana with Golden Lion Travel.

BIGGER B. CAL - GOLDEN LION HOLIDAYS

British Caledonian Golden Lion Holidays offer a wider range of destinations using scheduled flights for travellers who want a personal holiday at value for money prices. Some Hotels are owned and operated by British Caledonian. Ask your Travel Agent for a brochure.

BIGGER B. CAL - BETTER SERVICE

'Bigness' for its own sake is worthless. But a BIGGER B. Cal means better service for travellers, because service always improves where competition flourishes.

For details and reservations ask your Travel Agent or your Travel Manager.

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BRITISH CALEDONIAN

Over 450 flights a week to 25 countries, Europe, Africa, South America and within the U.K.



PRESS COMMISSION/Interim Report

Governments 'must not be able to exert partisan influence on newspaper

The arguments, conclusions and recommendations contained in the interim report of the Royal Commission on the Press, which was published yesterday, are given below.

During 1975 anxiety grew within and without Fleet Street about the financial prospects of the national newspapers and the possibility of closures. The Government in September, with the support of publishers and trade unions, asked the Royal Commission to undertake an inquiry and to make an interim report by the end of January 1976. The Commission, accepted by the Government, and accepted by the Commission, were:

Having regard to the immediate economic pressures on the national newspaper industry while the Royal Commission is considering the financial situation and the immediate prospects of the national newspapers; the scope and complexity of the issues involved; the need for a rapid and effective response to the problems; and the need for a rapid and effective response to the problems; the Commission has decided to publish an interim report by the end of January 1976.

The Commission as a whole could not have undertaken the rapid and extensive consultations necessary to produce this interim report in four months, and they therefore nominated the chairman, the Hon Roger Chorley and the Hon Sir John Gifford, to undertake the necessary work.

On January 14 1976 the publishers and the trade unions asked that the report might be delayed for one month so that they might present a joint submission. The Commission agreed. The whole Commission has been working hard throughout the period of investigation and have participated in discussing the main points of the report.

In accordance with these terms of reference, the Commission's interim report deals with the financial position of the national press. Nothing in this report, therefore, prejudices conclusions about such matters as the nature, purpose and conditions for the survival of a free press which we shall deal with in our final report. The report is intended to be a preliminary one, and the Commission has not yet concluded an examination of the industry as a whole. The Commission has also received many suggestions from the public and the press which it is considering in its final report.

Accordingly, the Commission has excluded consideration of measures like the establishment of a national printing corporation or of a body to allocate advertising revenue. These could not be introduced quickly enough to influence events during the next 12 months; and the Commission has not yet concluded an examination of the industry as a whole. The Commission has also received many suggestions from the public and the press which it is considering in its final report.

(a) enabling as many national newspapers as possible to continue publication; (b) ensuring, by minimising the costs of production, that national newspapers are as far as possible profitable and that their price is no higher than that of other newspapers; (c) improving industrial relations and securing stable employment and proper remuneration for the permanent employees; and (d) making any necessary reductions in manpower and other resources in a socially acceptable way.

There are eight dailies distributed throughout the United Kingdom (apart from the *Morning Star*, which is specifically asked to be excluded from the inquiry) and seven Sundays. Five of the dailies and four of the Sundays are also printed in Manchester, about a quarter of the total production of the national press. Since the closing of the *Beaverbrook* plant in 1974, none of these papers is now produced in Scotland, though they circulate generally there as in the rest of the United Kingdom. The report deals also with the two London evening papers, because their financial and production problems are similar to those of the national dailies. The Commission has adopted the convention of classifying papers as either "quality" or "popular". It is a distinction with many imperfections, but it permits ready comparison with previous studies, and is generally understood. The "quality" papers are the *Daily Telegraph*, *Financial Times*, *Sunday Observer*, *Sunday Times* and *Sunday Express*. The "popular" papers are the *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Star* and *Sunday Mirror*. All the groups owning these newspapers, with the exception of the *Observer* Ltd, have more than one newspaper and some are involved in other activities such as the publication and printing of magazines, books, and the manufacture of paper and ink. Some of the groups also have substantial shareholdings in television companies and are involved in industrial and commercial activities which have no connection with publishing or with the mass media.

All the publishers, except the *Mirror Group* which withdrew in 1974, are members of the Newspaper Publishers' Association. This includes major negotiations with the unions over wages and industrial relations, as well as having a number of other functions, in which the *Mirror Group* takes part. The *Mirror Group* is concerned in Fleet Street as, on the production side, the National Graphical Association (NGA) and the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers, Engravers and Process Workers (SLADE); the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (NATSGOP) and the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT); all with significant membership in Fleet Street. Members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering, Electrical, Telecommunications and Plumbing (AETUP) carry out maintenance in Fleet Street and their number, though small, is crucial

to the newspapers. Most journalists are members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), but there is a number of the Institute of Journalists (IOJ) members also. Clerical and other ancillary staff are mainly members of NATSGOP.

The national daily press as a whole had an average circulation in the second half of 1975 of 13.9 million. There has been a slight long-term decline in circulation. Roughly speaking, it is true of the Sunday press which in the same half year had an average circulation of 20.1 million. But this conceals the different experiences of the popular and quality papers, as well as of individual titles in each group. While the circulation of the populars has declined fairly steadily over the years, the quality papers have generally increased theirs. Nearly all papers except the *Sun* have, however, shown a very substantial fall in circulation in the last two years and the London evening papers have suffered more, as a class, than any of the others. The steady rise in price of newspapers relative to other goods over the last 20 years has accelerated as a result of a greater fall in circulation than the past experience would have suggested. The recent decline in disposable real incomes may well have contributed to this. Statistics do not show clearly how far the fall in circulation of the national press is attributable to people dropping out of readership, or to the fact that a second newspaper has been added to the household. However, even at the levels of circulation now reached, more daily papers are sold per head of population in the United Kingdom than in any European country other than Scandinavia. For example, roughly twice as many as in France.

The national newspapers depend to a great extent on advertising revenue. In 1975, 58 per cent of the revenue of the quality dailies was derived from advertising, compared with 27 per cent of that of the populars. The proportions have, however, declined progressively since the mid-1960s for all classes of national newspapers. Between 1960 and 1974 the share of national newspapers in total advertising fell from 20 per cent to 18 per cent. A larger fall in the share of display advertising was offset by a significant growth in classified advertising, especially in the quality press.

Because of this dependence on advertising, itself subject to marked cyclical swings, the national newspapers are closely linked to the cycles experienced by the economy as a whole. The present recession has particularly affected the national newspaper publishers. In spite of sharp rises in advertising rates, from 1974 to 1975, this has caused difficulties for the industry, especially for the quality and the London evening papers. This has been greater dependence on sales revenue, which may prove to be a permanent feature of the industry, and which necessarily an unhealthy one.

The decline in revenues followed closely on severe increases in raw material, transport and printing costs. In 1975, the relative price of newsprint declined, but it more than doubled between 1972 and 1975, and now rises at 10 per cent a year. The price of paper and 28 per cent of that of quality as compared with 30 per cent and 24 per cent in 1970. The Commission believes that, though the other main component in costs, wages, rose less rapidly than in other industries between 1974 and 1975. Earnings in national newspapers, particularly for some occupational groups, are extremely high in comparison with those in other industries.

The 1961-62 Royal Commission remarked on the highly competitive nature of the national newspaper industry and that it remains a competitive industry. Competition is one reason why, over the years since then, and with some notable exceptions, the general level of newspaper prices has been high. Indeed, an unusual feature of the industry has been the willingness of some owners of newspapers to sell their papers at a loss, even when they were making losses over a period of years, and showed little immediate prospect of profitability. This is possible only for owners with other substantial resources, and has meant that some papers that would have been sold at a loss have been kept going, but it has also put pressure on others with no such resources. Certain houses did not wish the financial data made available to the Commission to be used by their competitors. It is believed that this would have been damaging. But for this restriction, the argument in this report would have been stronger. The Commission believes that the most acute problems are not those of the national dailies, but those of the London evening papers. The period 1974 and 1975 were two consecutive bad years for the industry. In 1974 only three dailies, the *Sunday Express*, *Sunday Times* and *Sunday Observer*, made a profit. In 1975 only four dailies and one Sunday paper, the *Sunday Express*, made a profit. The Commission believes that the industry is in a difficult position, and that it is a distinction with many imperfections, but it permits ready comparison with previous studies, and is generally understood. The "quality" papers are the *Daily Telegraph*, *Financial Times*, *Sunday Observer*, *Sunday Times* and *Sunday Express*. The "popular" papers are the *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Star* and *Sunday Mirror*. All the groups owning these newspapers, with the exception of the *Observer* Ltd, have more than one newspaper and some are involved in other activities such as the publication and printing of magazines, books, and the manufacture of paper and ink. Some of the groups also have substantial shareholdings in television companies and are involved in industrial and commercial activities which have no connection with publishing or with the mass media.

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Authors of the interim report—Lord Hunt, Professor O. R. McGregor (chairman) and Mr Roger Hunt.

Low-interest loans to finance new technology and manpower reductions in industry

The Commission concludes that:

- the financial position of the industry is poor and in particular the cash-flow of a number of houses, including most of the quality newspapers, is becoming critical;
- there is no immediate prospect of increasing revenue sufficiently to change this position for the better;
- the only adequate means of cost-saving is to secure higher productivity through reductions in manpower and the introduction of new technology;
- these changes can only be made quickly and effectively if socially acceptable terms can be agreed;
- there is a genuine will in the industry to reach agreement on a wide range of hitherto intractable matters;
- the prospective Joint Standing Committee for the industry offers the best opportunity of achieving the necessary changes;
- the changes required should be put in hand forthwith;
- the estimated cost to the publishers for redundancy is between £30 and £35 million, and for investment some £20 million;
- some financial help from outside the industry is necessary but not by way of a general subsidy;

The Commission recommends that:

- assistance should be drawn as far as possible from the private sector and from a single organization with experience in handling problems at an industry level; no source is as appropriate as Finance For Industry;
- if there is any house which cannot meet FFI's requirements, Government should make loans available in cases of proven need;
- the Government should give relief, not higher than 4 per cent on interest rates on loans, irrespective of the source of borrowing, for each of the first two years, as an incentive to all houses to adopt industry-wide, rather than piecemeal solutions, with the possibility of additional relief only in cases of proven need;
- assistance should be available for agreed compensation for redundancy; contributions towards an agreed scheme for decasualization; capital expenditure on new technology; and for meeting problems of liquidity or debt structure;
- until and unless the industry sets up the Joint Standing Committee and unless any publisher wishing to borrow money undertakes to ensure that his policies and plans are consistent with the guidelines

established for the industry by that Committee, no relief should be given;

(vi) if, subsequently, policies and plans depart materially from the guidelines, it should be considered whether any relief given is to be withdrawn.

A healthy, independent and diverse press is an indispensable feature of a democratic society. The Commission can examine fully the implications of this truism for the press as a whole only in their final report. While the Commission's present proposals cannot guarantee the long-term future of all existing titles in Fleet Street, they believe that they will help publishers to overcome their present difficulties. It may be asked why the national newspaper industry should receive special consideration. The Commission's recommendations for assistance are different neither in principle nor in generosity from that given under present statutes to other industries in difficulty. Nor have the Commission proposed special legislation. The present chance to release the industry from its past may not recur, should not be missed, and amply justifies assistance. The Commission believes that the joint plans now being worked out by the unions and the publishers can succeed.

forecasts, which are consistent with the view that the industry as a whole is slightly less profitable than in 1975; that the qualities may make roughly equal losses, but that the cash flow of almost £5 million; and that losses on the two London evening papers may be higher than in 1975. A much more pessimistic view of 1977—which is as far ahead as this interim report seeks to look—suggests that the industry will be in a difficult position. The Commission's view is that the industry is in a difficult position, and that it is a distinction with many imperfections, but it permits ready comparison with previous studies, and is generally understood. The "quality" papers are the *Daily Telegraph*, *Financial Times*, *Sunday Observer*, *Sunday Times* and *Sunday Express*. The "popular" papers are the *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Star* and *Sunday Mirror*. All the groups owning these newspapers, with the exception of the *Observer* Ltd, have more than one newspaper and some are involved in other activities such as the publication and printing of magazines, books, and the manufacture of paper and ink. Some of the groups also have substantial shareholdings in television companies and are involved in industrial and commercial activities which have no connection with publishing or with the mass media.

The worst fears expressed by the industry at the beginning of the inquiry have not been borne out; newspapers do not seem to be accelerating in loss. Nevertheless, the continuation of losses, and of the even more adverse cash flow, has a cumulative effect which is serious. The Commission is satisfied that 1975 will be a third successive year of loss for a number of houses. The losses are not confined to a variety of sources but particularly for most quality papers the three bad years mean an unhealthy dependence on short-term sources of funds or on the rest of the groups of which some houses are part. Moreover, the long-term losses, the debt structure of some houses which do not form part of a larger group, and the fact that some instances houses are under-capitalized. In some cases, short-term loans are being used to finance the industry. The Commission is satisfied that 1975 will be a third successive year of loss for a number of houses. 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HOME NEWS

Institute bans public showings for juvenile crime film on ground of parents' reservations

Penny Symon

The governors of the British Film Institute have decided at the controversial documentary, *Juvenile Liaison*, which includes a scene showing a seven-year-old boy being questioned in a police cell, would not be allowed a public showing.

The film was made by Mr Nicholas Broomfield and Miss Susan Churchill with £15,000 awarded by the institute and the police juvenile liaison scheme, which enables officers to caution young offenders, many aged seven or eight, rather than take them to court.

It was shot in Blackburn, Lancashire, and the filmmakers received cooperation from the police and the families involved. They maintain that no undertaking was given that the film would not get a public showing, and scenes involving those families who object to that possibility set out.

Although the police did not object at the time, they began to pressure on the institute to stop that showing.

In a statement the institute's

governors said yesterday that they could not permit a wide showing. "We are not satisfied that we have adequate consents in the case of a film concerning young children from, or on behalf of, persons appearing in this film. We are exploring methods of responding to possible requests to show this film to specialist groups with an interest in the subject matter."

Mr Broomfield said he was very sad that the governors had not backed the film, and repeated his assurance that he and Miss Churchill had obtained the necessary consents for the film's possible showing on television from families involved.

An offer for the film was made by Thames Television, and the families were informed. Those who objected were cut from the film and an undertaking was given not to show the film around Blackburn.

"We got agreement from the families, and the governors have waited till now, three or four months later, to make this decision," he said. "There has been a delay, and the police have now gathered statements from the families which conflict with ours."

Mr Barrie Gavin, who as head of production at the institute was responsible for *Juvenile Liaison*, said he was

very unhappy at the decision. "I am in favour of the film. I think it is magnificent, and I am very disturbed at the vague wording about 'specialist groups' in the governors' statement."

Mr Gavin said most of the money for the film came from the Department of Education and Science. The public had a right to see a film made with public money and the filmmakers a right to examine the institutions by which we were governed and ask questions about those institutions.

He added that at no time was he under the impression that *Juvenile Liaison* was a private film. No undertaking was ever given that it would not be shown, and it would be wrong to have spent the money on such an exercise.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, said he was disturbed at the issues the film raised about the juvenile liaison scheme. He had tabled questions asking the Home Secretary for an urgent review of the scheme, a report from the Chief Constable of Lancashire on specific instances in the film, and on what legal authority children aged seven were taken to and interrogated in police cells.

Metrication in food 'a threat to pay policy'

A call for a Government assurance that compulsory powers to adopt metric weights for food will not be used until inflation has been brought under control was made yesterday by the National Consumer Council.

The council, established by the Government last May to identify and represent the interests of consumers, said that shoppers were confused by rising prices, and metrication would be too much to cope with.

Mr Michael Young, chairman of the council, said: "A short, sharp changeover to metric could mean a short, sharp end to the pay policy."

The council believes that the Welsh and Measures Etc Bill, which would give the Government powers to make it an offence for shopkeepers to sell packaged foods in pounds, ounces and pints, and could force them to weigh out fresh foods in metric units, should be substantially amended or withdrawn.

While conversion could not be brought to bear on weight-out foods for some years, because the necessary metric scales and measures had yet to be manufactured, the cost and upheaval of the process would be so great that it posed the question whether that particular changeover was necessary.

Britain's EEC membership does not mean that food has to be in metric units, at least for some years, the council says.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who has recovered from influenza, photographed after presenting St Patrick's Day shamrock to the Irish Guards at Pirbright, Surrey, yesterday.

In brief

Prisoners found hanged in cells

Two prisoners have been found hanged in their cells in Walton Jail, Liverpool. The Home Office said last night that the incidents were not connected.

Anthony Myles, aged 20, was found on Tuesday. Edmund Riggs, aged 37, was found yesterday. They were both serving sentences for burglary.

Solicitor reinstated

Thomas Derek Holdcroft, a solicitor, of Grand Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, who was struck off the roll in 1970 for breaching accounts rules and unbecoming conduct, had his name restored to the roll yesterday.

Widow murder charge

Robert William Alexander Behnam, aged 21, of King's Hill Road, Swindon and Natalie Granato, aged 18, of Beatrice Street, Swindon, both unemployed, were remanded in custody until March 26 by a special court yesterday at Witney, Oxfordshire, accused of murdering Mrs Agnes Sheffield, a widow, aged 63, at her home near Witney.

Help for disabled

A new organization to press for better services for disabled Scots was launched in Edinburgh yesterday. It is called the Scottish Council on Disability.

School with no building urged for reluctant pupils

Our Education

Public buildings like museums, re stations and police headquarters should be used in the location of children a teacher (ages in a book published day on disruptive and difficult pupils.

Mr Gerald Haigh, deputy headmaster of Canon Maggs Middle School in Bedworth, Warwickshire, suggests that children should follow the Parky experiment started in Philadelphia in 1971. Mr Haigh, 39, has taught in six schools and is well-known as an educational writer.

The Philadelphia School and uses the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, where most of a public buildings are, as a city college for about 800 high school students. The curriculum is designed to make use of the city, and half the tricular activities are by juniors rather than teachers. A course in architecture is even by a local architect in s offices. Students gain social

studies credits for helping mentally handicapped children. Tutorial groups are held in hospitals and church halls. There is no official school building.

Mr Haigh proposes initially one unit of 100 pupils, aged between 11 and 16, chosen for their reluctance towards school by local head teachers with parents' approval. They could have 10 teachers as money would be saved on a school building.

Mr Haigh proposes a "unit room" which could be spare office in any municipal building or a caravan; and nine tutor bases in the town library, council offices, university, fire station and police headquarters.

He proposes history lessons in the town museum and biology lessons in hospitals with nurses and doctors contributing. *The Reluctant Adolescent*, by Gerald Haigh (Maurice Temple Smith Ltd, 37 Great Russell St, London WC1 3PP; £3.50).

BBC programme on drug prices 'unfair'

By a Staff Reporter

The BBC Complaints Commission has upheld a complaint by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) against a *Nation* programme on January 14, 1975, about National Health Service pharmaceutical costs.

It ruled that the programme on drug prices was unfair, derogatory and damaging to the British pharmaceutical industry, and suggested that the production of further programmes giving a balanced presentation of the facts and the differing points of view might provide a remedy.

The Commission members, whose adjudication will be published in *The Listener* today, are: Sir Edmund Compton, chairman of the English Local Government Boundary Commission; Sir Henry Fisher, director of J Henry Schroder Wagg and Co; and Lady Savara, chairman of the Commission for Local Administration.

Jail for 'idler' on £54 a week welfare pay

Leslie Lister, aged 43, of Fitzmaurice Road, Sheffield, was sent to prison for six months by the city's Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr John Henham, yesterday on three charges of persistently failing to maintain himself, his wife, Maureen, and six of his children.

The court was told he had done six weeks' work in 10 years, he refused jobs, and he had been overpaid £2,700 in two years because of his "bonedleness".

Mr Lister, who pleaded not guilty, said he had been drawing £45.30 state benefit and £9 a week family allowance.

Mr Basil Corcos, prosecuting for the Department of Health and Social Security, said Mr Lister was out of work of his own volition.

Mr Michael Wass, personnel manager of Bedford Steels Ltd, Sheffield, said he offered Mr Lister work at £40 for a 40-hour

week plus overtime, but it was declined.

Mr Douglas Baxendale, manager at Woodhouse rehabilitation centre, said Mr Lister attended a course on 14 out of 39 days, and six of those were on Thursdays when supplementary benefit was paid.

He refused a job at between £47 and £60 a week, saying he had varicose veins, but refused to be medically examined.

Mr Lister said he had nine children at home, one of whom was working. He could not manage with less money unless he cut down on food, and could do only light work as he had no skills.

Mr Kevin Robinson, for the defence, submitted that if Mr Lister took employment it could be only a light job at about £35 a week and he would be guilty of neglecting to maintain his family.

Drivers using bus lanes may be fined

By Our Labour Staff

The Civil Service Union has accused the Home Office of "giving little thought" to the practical difficulties of proposed legislation which would enable traffic wardens to fine down cars using bus lanes. During

talks at the Home Office, union officials have raised the question of where vehicles should be stopped while fixed-fine tickets are being issued.

The Home Office has suggested that the union is being "unduly alarmist" and says the wardens will be trained for the new responsibility.

Traffic wardens already have the power to report cars they see using bus lanes. The Home Office was unable to say yesterday when the proposed new

Low paid 'markedly worse off despite £6 rise'

By Our Social Services

Correspondent Most of the low paid, particularly families with children, were markedly worse off last year although many of them received the full £6 a week increase under the Government's pay policy.

Their higher wages were eroded by higher tax and national insurance contributions, by the loss of some welfare benefits and by higher prices for essentials.

Those are the main conclusions of the third annual poverty report, edited by Professor Peter Willmott, co-director of the Institute of Community Studies.

The report has been sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with pleas that the next round of wages policy should be based on flat-rate limits, together with

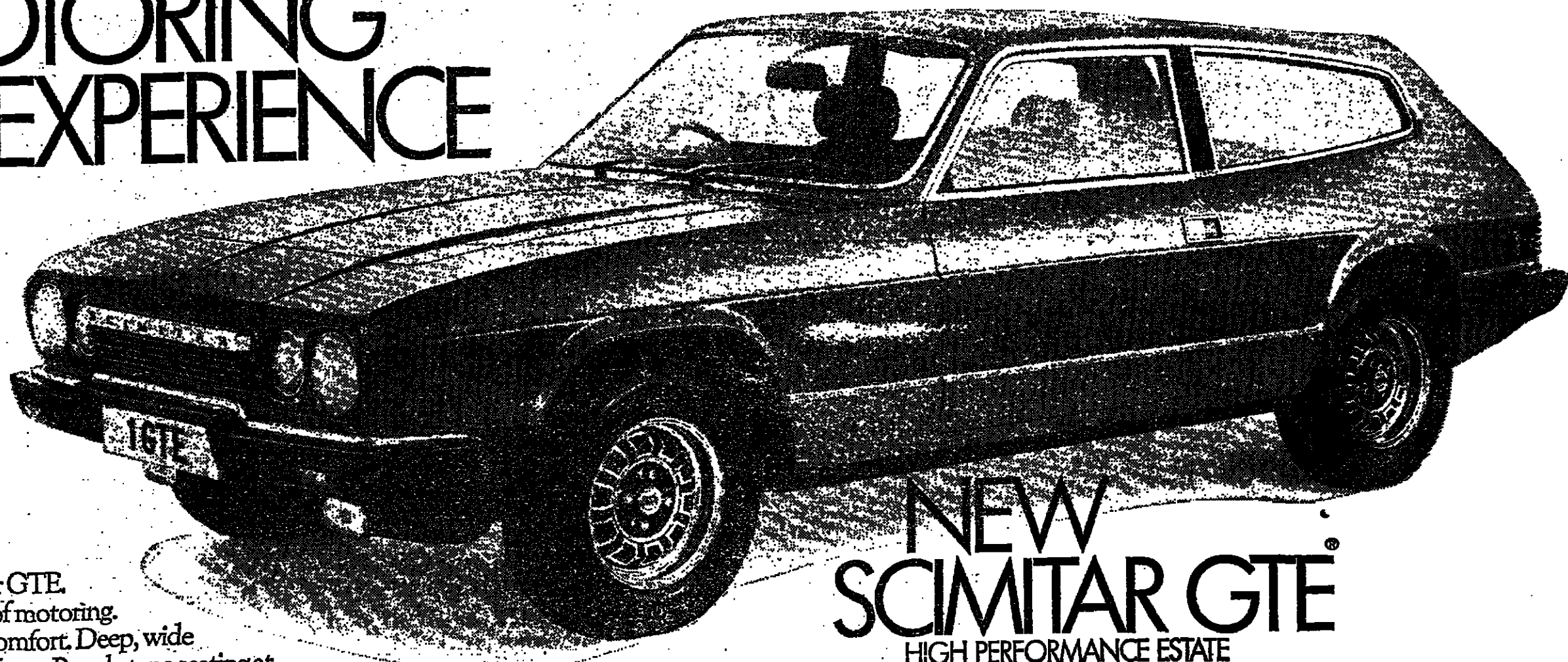
security systems to protect the worst off.

The report says that while counter-inflation policies have been designed to harm the poor least, many of them are worse off. Even though many low-paid workers received the full £6 increase, there were still many earning less than £30 a week.

But the 1975 Budget increased taxes in real terms for low-paid workers, treating them more harshly than the better off. When changes in taxes and eligibility for benefits such as rent and rate rebates, school meals and family income supplement were taken into account a low-paid family with four children had a drop of nine per cent in the standard of living between October, 1974, and October, 1975.

Sharing Inflation? Poverty Report 1976, edited by Peter Willmott. (Also see "paperback")

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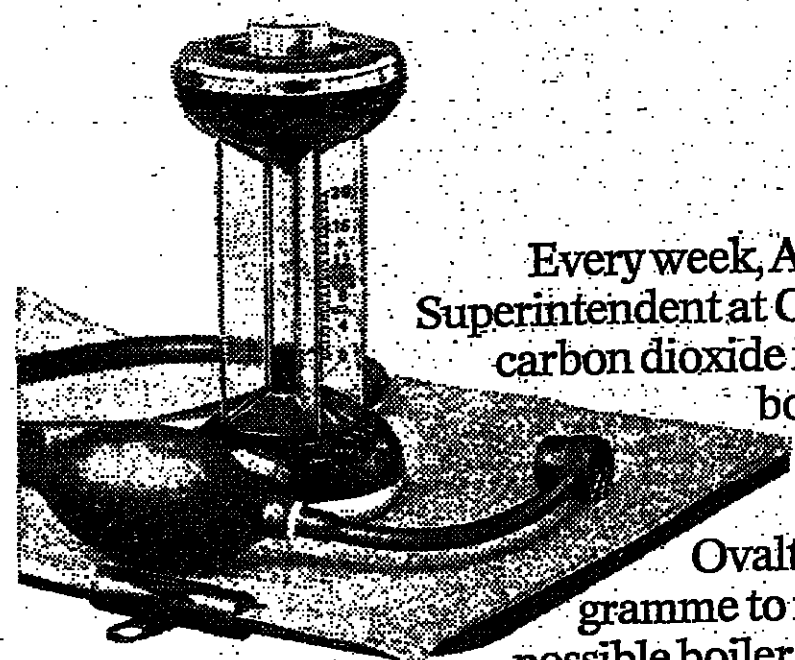
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NEW
BOOKLET

PARLIAMENT, March 17, 1976

Assurance that major part of railways will be preserved

House of Commons

Integration of coordination of the different parts of the transport system would play the central part of the consultative document on transport policy which he hoped to issue next month, stated Mr. Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment. He added that he hoped to make an announcement before long about a successor to Sir Richard Marsh, chairman of British Rail.

Mr. Crosland (Crosby, Lab.), questioned about meetings with Sir Richard Marsh, said he had met him at the beginning of this week when Sir Richard advised him that he did not wish to be reappointed when his present term of office expired in September.

I am sure that the House will join me (the continued) in paying tribute to the unstinting efforts of Sir Richard Marsh to promote the interests of the railways and railwaymen in what has been a difficult period for the industry.

His knowledge and experience will of course be available during the critical period ahead and consultations about the future development of transport policy.

Mr. Toby Jessel (Richmond upon Thames, T. Wickham, C.)—Why have the Government allowed Sir Richard Marsh to leave British Rail? I think that criticism, which commuters have to pay 17 per cent more for a journey than they did in 1964, is a very real one.

Mr. Crosland—On average the commuter passenger gets the same subsidy as any other passenger. The reason for the increase is that the Government have set British Rail certain short-term financial targets and in order to meet these it has had to raise fares.

Mr. Douglas Crawford (Perth and East Perthshire, Scot. Lab.)—Would he give a categorical assurance that the answer is "Yes".

There will be no cutbacks in the railway network in Scotland?

Mr. Crosland—I have made it clear on innumerable occasions in this House that suggestions made and illustrated by a map of railway cuts are without foundation.

I cannot guarantee that every single line of the whole country will remain for the whole of eternity, but I can give an absolute assurance that the major part of our existing railway network will be preserved.

Mr. Gordon Ragsie (Sunderland, South. Lab.)—Will he discount the reports on Sir Richard Marsh's resignation that one of the reasons was that he had had a foresight of what the review was saying and he disliked the fact that the railways were going to be knocked to pieces by Mr. Crosland? Will he confirm or deny that?

Mr. Crosland—I do not like to speak on behalf of Sir Richard Marsh but he would not object if I said that this was not his reason for leaving.

His reason was that he felt under successive Governments—and he directed his criticism more at the previous Government than this one—that the railways had not been given sufficiently clear objectives and he thought that he did not want to continue for a further term.

I think that that criticism, which will be given assurance that he will give full backing to whoever becomes the new chairman in a determined drive for financial and managerial discipline in the railways.

Mr. Timothy Raisen, chief opposition spokesman on the railways, said that Sir Richard Marsh was more critical of the previous Government than this one. On behalf of the Government, he said that Sir Richard Marsh was more critical of the previous Government than this one.

Mr. Crosland—On the last part the answer is "Yes".

Rejection of Bill on private coal mines

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury, C.) was re-elected by 265 votes to 154—majority against 51—to introduce the Coal Industry (Amendment) Bill to amend the law relating to the licensing of privately owned coal mines.

He said only about 1,600 people worked in private mines. Powers to license these mines would be given to the National Coal Board. A curious fact about the Bill was that it would be made to issue the licences. The Board also had the power to charge rent or royalties on coal worked by private mines, to alter or revoke the licences, to impose conditions upon any licence, and so to alter the affairs of privately owned coal mines that they could not compete on fair terms.

The Bill would provide that the power to license mines was with the Government, who would only refuse a licence on the grounds of safety or health in the operation of these mines and not on the grounds of preventing or frustrating competition.

Customers of the coal industry would benefit from alternative sources of supply.

The wages in the industry were determined on politics with the National Union of Mineworkers becoming a political party in 1964. (Labour protest.) Under his Bill, miners would be able to double or triple their wages by their own efforts.

Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab.), opposing leave to introduce the Bill, said Mr. Ridley came from a coal-mining family before he became a politician. He said that the miners were not concerned with profit making.

During the last year the realization that if they were going to sustain the coal industry for the nation and produce the coal badly needed for the country, they would have to do so on a planned basis. Mr. Ridley wanted to let the winds of competition and free enterprise blow through the coal industry in order for people to make money.

Government rule out general subsidy for national papers asked to estimate cost of bringing in new met

The Government have ruled out any general subsidy for the national newspaper industry. Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, said in a statement on the interim report of the Royal Commission on the Press that such subsidies would be unnecessary and unjustified and would be a bad precedent.

Mr. Shore said: "The Government asked the royal commission last September for a report in view of the urgent problems facing Fleet Street in recent months management and unions have been working together to reach a comprehensive agreement on modern management and financial arrangements. The report considers that the rapid implementation of such an agreement is essential. The Government recognise the importance of such a coordinated approach.

To achieve the breakthrough needed, very substantial expenditure will be involved over a period of about four years. It will mean major capital investment in new equipment and financing the costs of redundancy and following consequent demands for a more rationalization of Fleet Street's floating labour force. To this would have to be added the cost of restructuring and improved pension schemes.

In exchange there will be large savings. The royal commission takes the view that a general subsidy for the press is unnecessary and unjustified and can be replaced by the industry's own scheme for new equipment and agreed voluntary redundancies on the right terms. Nor do they believe that the industry would welcome subsidies on this basis.

The Government agree. The royal commission has laid out a way for costs and savings of £50m to £55m (in respect of capital investment and redundancy) over a period of four years.

In fact—and I am sure the commission would be the first to say—there is no need for any other figure with confidence now. Before anyone can get the measure of what is involved it is essential to have a more detailed approach to what is involved in what are their agreed manning levels and what

are the specific compensatory payments to be associated with them. Although the intention is that these will be applied on a standard basis throughout Fleet Street, it will still be necessary for each house to work out their agreed consequential in respect of their individual positions which vary very widely.

The key to the royal commission's proposals is that any individual house participating in this scheme will be able to finance their costs out of their savings. This means that a high proportion of them should be able to finance their costs out of their savings. This means that a high proportion of them should be able to finance their costs out of their savings.

They add that there may be cases where a house could achieve these valuable off-setting economies in the medium term but meanwhile had difficulties in meeting the normal commercial requirements.

The royal commission propose that such loans should be made available from public sources. The Government recognize that Fleet Street now has an opportunity of taking bold collective action to deal with their central problems. They are, however, a number of important issues for discussion, particularly in the present economic climate, all concerned with need for further savings and cost-cutting measures.

We shall be inviting the Fleet Street committee to tell us by the end of June what specific details they have in mind for the future. They are agreed upon and by the end of July we shall ask individual houses to provide more detailed figures of the consequential in terms of costs and savings for their own positions.

Our sympathy with such basic arithmetic, the Government will consider, and we will ensure that if assistance is offered to the press it does not result in more efficient parts of the press being penalized by the help to the others.

A great deal of the press is outside Fleet Street. Has the industry been able to do anything further to say to the Government? We take the view that this is far excellence not an industry in which a general Government subsidy could be made a sensible proposition. It is an industry where technological advance and

the potential for its exploitation is essential. We want to ensure that restrictive practices do not create a higher and higher monopoly pay with a smaller and smaller market.

The proposals in the report suggest that certain carrots should be given to the industry. The right approach is to proceed, if possible, by consensus. The House should have an opportunity of debating the matter and in particular whether there is a need for assistance of the kind referred to.

Information on the question of cross subsidization of advertising revenue and the position of the economics of the provincial press should be made available before we reach a firm decision on the interim report.

Mr. Shore—We are all concerned to preserve a strong, free and diversified press. I can assure Mr. Higgins that we stand by what we have said, and which the royal commission emphasize, that we will be opposed to any general Government subsidy to the press.

I would not wish to go beyond my statement in considering any of the more detailed proposals put by the royal commission, whether in the majority report or the minority addendum.

At the right time we shall consider, and we will ensure that if assistance is offered to the press it does not result in more efficient parts of the press being penalized by the help to the others.

Mr. Jo Grimond (Orkney and Shetland, Lab.)—Will the Minister ensure that if assistance is offered to the press it does not result in more efficient parts of the press being penalized by the help to the others?

Mr. Shore—The royal commission itself makes clear that in putting forward its proposals it has precisely those considerations in mind and is hostile to mergers of dailies and houses affecting the diversity of the press. We have no intention of supporting any scheme for a general subsidy.

Mr. George Younger (Ayr, C.)—In the reassessment of the press, it is important to take account of the well as of the past. It would be a poor bargain if we paid through the nose to eliminate old managements and fix new levels which would remain set until a further crisis hits the press.

Mr. Shore—Part of the recommendations is concerned with

focus of the interim report. It would be wrong to perceive the efficient parts of the press. We will have a clearer picture when the arithmetic is done as to who is efficient and who is not.

Mr. Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead, Lab.) asked for an assurance that there was no question of boxes to the press unless and until there was agreement between the management and unions on the redundancy and redeployment of labour.

Mr. Shore—I willingly echo sentiments to the helpful and forward looking approach of the unions and management in putting forward submissions to the royal commission, the contents of which are invaluable and indispensable step forward. We have no intention of making available any loans for the medium term but we will be opposed to any general Government subsidy to the press.

Mr. Philip Whitehead (Derby, North. Lab.)—On both sides of the House there is a welcome for the view that there should be no general subsidy to the press. In the forthcoming discussions, will Mr. Shore make clear to both sides of the industry when they come forward with proposals, that we are committed to a pluralist press and to as many outlets as possible. That means the Government will not be faced against further concentration of ownership?

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Commuters not singled out for harsh treatment—minister

Mr. Norman Fowler, Opposition spokesman on transport (Sutton Coldfield, C.), opening a debate on commuter rail services, said the Government were preparing a transport policy review document and had promised it would be one of the most important statements on transport for some time.

He said that the Government had been increased by Sir Richard Marsh's announcement that he did not intend to reappoint himself as chairman of British Railways.

The period of uncertainty must be brought to an end and the Government's plans were crucial. The people in the debate on transport were not the lobbyists for road or rail but the commuters and taxpayers. Their interests were paramount. In terms of rail travel one of the most important customer groups was the commuters in the commuter travel in London each day.

For the commuter travel was not a question of pleasure but of necessity. As a traveller he wanted efficient low cost travel; as a taxpayer he had an interest in ensuring that the commuter subsidy was kept to a minimum.

It would be a profound mistake for the Government to think that commuters were the only group who were felt only by the affluent middle class. It was true that the middle income groups were concerned, as they well might be,

caught between the double thrust of record taxation and record inflation, but the concern was shared by other commuters who were not commuters but those working in the railways.

The concern had been heightened, not only by the fact of the latest increase but by its manner. There had been a 5 to 15 per cent increase for inter-city trains and 17.5 per cent for commuters.

British Rail made no secret of the fact that the increase was a cost differential, but that the increases had been worked out on what the market would bear. Inter-city fares were elastic and commuter demand inelastic. The commuter was seen as a captive market and seen in that way by a monopoly passenger demand.

If greater efficiency and increased productivity were to be the goals there must be close examination of commuter fares and the way they were set.

Mr. Kenneth Marks, Under Secretary for the Environment (Manchester, Gorton, Lab.) said that the Government would be referred to in the answer is "Yes".

the transport policy review to be published next month.

The Government were not commuter bashing. It was not part of their policy or that of the minister. The greater part were ordinary people on ordinary incomes who had no alternative but to travel by train.

Some rolling stock was going old, broke down and caused delay and frustration to passengers. The Government and Board wished to replace it with new stock but they could not afford to finance improvements to all commuter services.

We realize (he said) that these fare increases are biting into family budgets. But fares would have to go up by much more than the present 5 to 15 per cent to pay for the new stock which we paid to the passenger system this year. We are not cutting our losses. We are trying to make the railway a better place to live in.

Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling, C.) said he could not

stress too strongly the highly crippling burden on family budgets of increased fares over the past two years. In February, the average London fare to London was £240, an increase of 10 per cent.

The rate of increase of commuter fares had been three times greater than the rate of increase of inter-city fares.

A cost-benefit study was needed into the worth of expenditure on commuter fares. If the minister could not do this, he would be killing off London.

Mr. Leslie Rankfield (Nuneaton, Lab.) said that the last place where there was overmanning was in the southern region. The need for more staff to drive the trains or man the stations.

Mr. Stephen Macdonald (South-east, C.) said commuters from some parts of the country were being subsidized as much as 5p a mile and in the south-east the subsidy was 2p a mile. He said that the Government should be subsidizing the railways, it was the people who did not travel by rail at all who paid subsidies to those who did.

Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling, C.) said he could not

South, Lab.) said about 25 per cent of the population of the Greater London area were paying for some form of public transport. The cost of rail travel in London, a diminishing proportion of the population were paying an increasing proportion of the cost of rail travel.

Mr. Edward Graham (Enfield, Edmonton, Lab.) said he had been serious consideration would be given to selecting the successor to Sir Richard Marsh from within the ranks of those serving British Rail and who had given their working lives to the railways.

Mr. Peter Fry (Wellingborough, C.), for the Opposition, said the Government, British Rail and the unions should sit down and examine the rules, and manning requirements.

Mr. John Gilbert, Minister for Transport (Dudley, East, Lab.) said that the Government had made it clear that they would be looking for a successor to Sir Richard Marsh from within the ranks of those serving British Rail and who had given their working lives to the railways.

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Ideas outlined for making use of private housing stock

Mr. Hugh Ross, Opposition spokesman on housing and land (Stirling, Forth, C.), opening a debate on private rented housing and the use of the housing stock, said that the Government had been asked to consider the possibility of making use of the private housing stock.

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OVERSEAS

British Conservative MP sees 'a good deal of flexibility' in Rhodesian constitutional talks

From Michael Knipe
Salisbury, March 17

After statements by Mr. Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the African leader, indicating a "little prospect of agreement, the two men and their negotiating teams held lengthy morning and afternoon sessions of constitutional talks here today.

Mr. Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, said after speaking to both men that he believed both sides were capable of "a good deal of flexibility" in the gap between them was wide, but he was "not altogether unhelpful" of a settlement.

At a press conference after his three-day visit to Rhodesia, Mr. Griffiths, a former Conservative spokesman on foreign affairs, expressed admiration for the developments which had occurred in the Rhodesian economy in spite of international sanctions.

"Sanctions seem to have acted as a stimulus as much as anything else," he said. "They seem to have done more damage to neighbouring states than they have done to Rhodesia."

In answer to a question, however, he said Britain was under an international obligation to respect sanctions and should continue to do so until a settlement was reached, or was in the process of being reached.

Mr. Griffiths, who saw a cross-section of people, both black and white, during his visit, said he believed the two sides were "at their eleventh hour" so far as a settlement was concerned.

He emphasized that his visit was private, and that he was not representing either the British Government or his party. He felt there was a good reason for Britain to renege on the Rhodesian issue. Precisely

how, was a matter for careful consideration.

He believed Britain could contribute usefully in reaching a settlement. Failure to reach one could create an extremely serious situation affecting not only Rhodesia but southern Africa as a whole. He saw Rhodesia was at a point of balance between a sequence of events which could lead to disaster, and a sequence which could lead to progress.

At today's constitutional talks, Mr. Nkomo was accompanied by four executive members of the faction of the African National Council he leads and two white advisers, Mr. Justice Baron, the Deputy Chief Justice of Zambia, who has been legal adviser to Rhodesian African nationalists for a long time, and Mr. Robert Wright, a British lawyer. The talks are due to resume on Friday, an indication of the urgency with which the need for progress is viewed.

Navy chief censured for accepting favours

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, March 17

Mr. William Middendorf, the Secretary of the Navy, has been formally admonished by his immediate superior, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, the Secretary of defence, for accepting hospitality from defence contractors.

Mr. Malcolm Currie, director of research at the Pentagon, has also been reprimanded and fined a month's pay.

The two officials accepted favours from Rockwell International, one of America's biggest defence contractors. Mr. Middendorf spent a day hunting geese at a lodge on the Chesapeake Bay, owned by Rockwell, and Mr. Currie spent several days at a resort owned by Rockwell at Blount, in the Bahamas.

It is his job to choose between various weapons systems, and his decisions are worth thousands of millions of dollars to the firms concerned.



Passers-by in Moscow pause to look at photographs of candidates for the American presidency displayed yesterday outside the United States Embassy.

Trudeau minister resigns over 'judges affair'

From Our Correspondent
Ottawa, March 17

The so-called "judges affair" has claimed its first political victim with the resignation of the youngest member of Mr. Trudeau's Cabinet, Mr. Andre Ouellet, Minister for Consumer Affairs.

Mr. Ouellet, who had been considered as a bright prospect for future advancement in the Government, submitted his resignation yesterday, and it was accepted by the Prime Minister.

Despite his departure, the Conservative and New Democratic Party opposition vowed to keep up its pressure in the Commons for a public inquiry into the judges affair.

Mr. Ouellet was one of four federal ministers, all from Quebec, involved in a controversy

that has swirled for two weeks over alleged interference in court cases. Mr. C. M. Brury, the Public Works Minister, tendered his resignation last Thursday but Mr. Trudeau refused it.

In a Commons statement yesterday, Mr. Ouellet admitted having asked Mr. Drury to help him determine "what type of apology would be appropriate" in a contempt of court case that Mr. Ouellet was facing three months ago.

Documents recently made public showed that Mr. Drury then made an unsuccessful intervention with the judge hearing the case to see whether an apology would be acceptable. Mr. Ouellet was later found to be in contempt.

He was fined and also ordered to apologize to another judge whom he had criticized.

Mr Whitlam survives two attempts to remove him

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, March 17

Mr. Gough Whitlam today survived two moves to remove him from leadership of the Australian Labour Party. The moves came in a meeting of the party caucus, comprising 63 members from both houses of Parliament.

A proposal calling for Mr. Whitlam's resignation unless he gave an undertaking to consult the party's parliamentary leaders on matters of importance concerning the party and another suggesting that he be asked to step down at "a time opportune to the party" were both ruled out of order.

Mr. Whitlam said afterwards that the amendments had been ruled out because "they were not germane to the debate". The meeting lasted two and a half hours and Mr. Whitlam spent 20 minutes answering

questions about the Irish offer of financial aid to the party before last December's election. His survival was not a surprise, mainly because there was no one to replace him. It is now fairly clear, however, that many in the Parliamentary Labour Party consider his days of greatness to be over. The caucus acted in the traditional Labour manner of loyalty to a troubled leader.

Canberra, March 17.—An avalanche of mail from Labour voters unprecedented in recent years enabled Mr. Whitlam to survive. He said later: "The spontaneous rank and file support... has inspired me to a new crusade to restore social democracy in Australia. I intend to be elected to lead the Australian Labour Party at the next election."

Agence France Presse.

Zambia seizes 'Unita plane' and white crew

Lusaka, March 17.—Mr. Aaron Milner, the Zambian Home Affairs Minister, today confirmed that the Government had seized a New Zealand-registered aircraft and its five white crew members. It is alleged that the aircraft belonged to the pro-Western Angolan nationalist movement Unita.

The incident came after a ban on Unita's use of Zambian airspace and territory by President Kaunda. The ban was enforced after Unita was routed in the recent Angolan civil war by the Popular Movement.

Our Lusaka Correspondent writes: Signor Dario Longhi, an Italian lecturer at the University of Zambia, has been served with a deportation order.

Signor Longhi, who was detained at the beginning of February, was released from the Mukoboko maximum security prison in Kabwe, north of here last Saturday.

Illinois makes President Ford and Mr Carter the front runners

From Fred Emery
Washington, March 17

By winning in Illinois their biggest primary election victory so far, President Ford and Mr. Jimmy Carter are gathering momentum as their respective party front-runners.

Mr. Ford is, in fact, virtually unstoppable. By now this is no surprise, even though it was only three weeks ago that he scraped home in New Hampshire. The President has won five straight victories. Illinois was the first test of the Midwest and his 59 to 40 per cent defeat of Mr. Reagan, although largely expected, was of the proportions that Americans term a landslide.

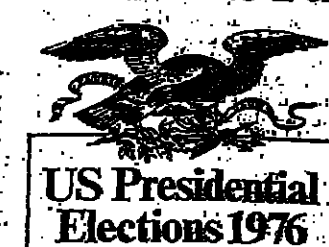
Mr. Reagan insists that he will not give up. "Somewhere out there, he insists, a victory is coming, and by this time he means the South and West. His last chance in the South comes in 10 days time, in North Carolina. Most observers have already written him off.

Mr. Ford's success lies in his good fortune and his new-found shrewdness. His mistakes were made early on. His honesty is so well established that small clouds like last weekend's suspension of his campaign manager, Mr. Howard ("Bo") Callaway, had no discernible impact. He is seen as so much more responsible than Mr. Reagan, and the economy is beginning, at least in popular depictions, to "come up rosy."

Still, all the euphoria in the Ford camp overlooks one nasty event earlier this week—the Gallup Poll which, for the first time, presented Mr. Carter as tending to beat Mr. Ford 47 to 42 per cent in a general election.

That poll reflected the enormous propulsion given to Mr. Carter's candidature by his victory in Florida. Today's result is even more impressive. He did unexpectedly well on two counts, and improving on expectations in "his business" gives an expanding magnification to the result far beyond the simple arithmetic.

First, he got 48 per cent of the presidential preference



US Presidential Elections 1976

vote, far ahead of Governor George Wallace who had 28 per cent. In Illinois this part of the vote is "now binding" in legal terms, but it has a magic, almost spellbinding effect for someone like Mr. Carter who has come from nowhere in so short a time.

Second, Mr. Carter did unexpectedly well in getting convention delegates pledged to him. These delegates are required to support the man who wins the most votes, and Mr. Carter stands to secure 58 out of the 155 up for election.

He ran only 85 candidates, partly out of conviction that most of the rest were locked up by Mr. Richard Daley, the mayor of Chicago. Mr. Daley had his satisfactions yesterday, but his man got only 17 of the Illinois delegates, which was less than they had planned.

Mr. Carter thus leads overall in the delegate race. He also has defeated Mr. Wallace two weeks running, and reduced the Alabama governor's challenge to a ramp protest.

Mr. Wallace got only three delegates. His remaining significance—and that is serious enough—is that he can continue to garner enough delegates to help defy any single candidate, including Mr. Carter, the majority needed for assured nomination. To that extent, Mr. Wallace is helping an outsider like Senator Hubert H. Humphrey to get "drafted" into the race.

Mr. Carter in Illinois also finished off the minor "liberal" candidates. Mr. Sergeant Shriver, well known in Illinois but never taken seriously enough, got 16 per cent in what he hoped would be his best state, then he withdrew as an active candidate. Mr. Fred Harris, the populist, got 8 per

cent. He is staying in even though the telephone has disconnected his headquarters in New York because the bills remain unpaid.

This leaves Mr. Carter facing two main rivals on April 6, in New York Senator Henry Jackson (who was not a contender in Illinois) is the favourite on the "conservative" moderate side of the party, and in Wisconsin on the same day Representative Morris Udall, the "liberal-progressive" spear carrier, will have to win to stay in the race. The betting now is that it will be between Mr. Carter and Mr. Jackson.

The Carter (and Ford) strategy of entering everywhere—in contrast to Senator Jackson's selectivity—is showing obvious benefits. Has Mr. Carter, however, been running against the Democrats' second team? He laughs off the question, knowing the polls show that large proportions in Illinois say they would have voted for Mr. Jimmy Carter if he had been on the ballot.

It is, in fact, irrelevant. Mr. Carter is getting the benefit of the by-now evident Democratic voting preference for a "centrist" candidate. He is a safe bet. He is a winner again, as in Florida, he is the choice of those blacks who bother to vote. The crunch will come when we have a head-to-head contest with Senator Jackson.

A footnote must concern Mayor Daley's revenge which, if not total, must nevertheless be sweet to him this morning. Governor Daniel Walker, who called the mayor's handling of demonstrations at the Chicago Democratic Convention in 1972 a "police riot", and who came to be hated by the Daley machine, was defeated for the nomination for reelection by the mayor's handpicked successor, Richard Daley.

The proud mayor who had the humiliation of being re-elected as an "irregular" at the 1972 Democratic convention, will go to the one in New York as the head of the largest block of Illinois delegates, proudly supporting Senator Adlai Stevenson.

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Dissension over future of 'errant' Mr Teng

From David Bonavia
Peking, March 17

Signs of mounting dissension about the correct way to cope with China's "errant" deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Teng Esiangping, became more evident in Peking today.

A consensus attributed to students and teachers at Peking University evidently took a hard line against Mr. Teng, stating that the "capitalist road" in the party must inevitably be defeated.

This seemed to conflict with a similar commentary attributed yesterday to staff and students at the equally important University of Tsinghua, in Peking, which hinted fairly broadly that Mr. Teng could still save his party and Government positions if he repented of his reputed errors of "revisionism".

The apparent dissension between the two universities reflects similar disguised disagreements in different organs of the Chinese official press, which came to the surface this week.

Peking, March 17.—The Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee has set up a special commission to carry out an inquiry into the "faults" of Mr. Teng and other

"rightist" leaders, a well-informed diplomatic source said here today.

Mr. Teng, who is also a party vice-chairman and Army Chief of Staff, was still refusing to admit his errors and was maintaining the revisionist positions.

The inquiry commission was reported to be composed notably of Central Committee members, and in that way was comparable with commissions formed during the Cultural Revolution to examine accusations made by the Red Guards against prominent people under attack.

The revisionist policy of which Mr. Teng and other unidentified leaders are being accused consists, according to the official press, of seeking to reverse certain "formal decisions" taken during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.

The New China news agency yesterday stated: "The party capitalist-roaders have great power and it is extremely dangerous when they practise revisionism. The agency also expressed the hope that Mr. Teng, whom it still refrained from naming although he was clearly identified, might at last admit his errors so that he could be 'used' again."

Agence France Presse.

Grandmaster in 'mistake of the century'

Skopje, Yugoslavia, March 17.

A Russian grandmaster made when he was called the "mistake of the century" last night in an international chess tournament here.

Rafael Vaganian, in a strong position against Rista, Nicoski, of Yugoslavia, made a move overlooking the threat of a one-move mate against him. He then realized his error and resigned immediately, amid audience laughter.

Anatoly Karpov, the world champion, is in the tournament, which ends tomorrow. Reuter.

Kenya minister back in Cabinet

Nairobi, March 17.—Mr. Paul Ngei, who was a member of the Kenya Cabinet from 1965 until last November when the high court found him responsible for irregularities in 1974 elections, was reappointed to the Cabinet today by President Kenyatta.

He was appointed Minister of Cooperative Development, and the former holder of that portfolio, Mr. Robert Matano, becomes Minister of Local Government.

Niger rebels face 'exemplary punishment'

Niamey, March 17.—Captain Sidi Mohamed, former

chief of the Niger Defence Ministry, was the real brain behind Monday's abortive coup against the military government, Mr. Daouda Diallo, the Information Secretary, said last night.

He told a press conference that Captain Sidi and two accomplices—Major Bayere Moussa, former Rural Economy Minister, and Mr. Ahmed Moudou, former secretary-general of the Niger National Workers Union—would receive "exemplary punishment". There could be no question of leniency towards "criminal" acts of this kind.

Mr. Diallo said Captain Sidi and Major Bayere were wounded during clashes with loyal troops but their condition

was not serious. Eight soldiers and officers were killed including a captain in charge of the Republican Guard corps, and a staff-sergeant of the President's bodyguard.

Lieutenant-Colonel Seydi Kouatche, the head of state, said all the dead were buried with regimental honours, including the mutineers, who had not realized the "criminal" nature of the operation and they were ordered to carry out.

The rebels first occupied the Army staff headquarters with the aid of about 20 soldiers "dragged from their beds in a hurry". They then tried to take over the presidential palace adjoining the headquarters, but were defeated by loyalist troops, according to Mr. Diallo. He said the three rebel leaders had unsuccessfully tried to rally support

among officers based in Niamey and the provinces.

The possibility that the coup attempt was organized with outside aid could not be ruled out. The arms used were all of foreign make and Captain Sidi had apparently been in touch on Monday morning with an unidentified foreign diplomat.

Mr. Diallo mentioned the "disquietening" similarities between the Niger revolt and that recently quelled in neighbouring Nigeria; but he said outside aid did not necessarily imply "complexity of a foreign country". This point could only be cleared up after investigation.

Captain Amadou Seyni, prefect of Niamey and member of the ruling military council, said it was highly likely the rebels bought their arms from international smugglers. Agence France Presse.

OVERSEAS

East Jerusalem tense
as doctors fight to
save shot Arab boyFrom Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, March 17

Doctors at a Jerusalem hospital were tonight fighting for the life of an 11-year-old Arab boy who was shot in the head during riots at Ben-Haim this morning. He was one of a crowd of schoolchildren who surrounded a car, carrying four Israeli soldiers, that was held up by an improvised road block of stones.

A police statement said "warning shots" were fired, and the boy was hit, but later an Army spokesman said the shots had not been fired from inside the car, but by other soldiers who were now being sought.

The boy, Ali Hussein al-Sana, was stated tonight to be in a critical condition. Two neurosurgeons had operated on him for four hours. Earlier the police issued a statement denying rumours which had spread through the Arab areas of Jerusalem, that he was dead. East Jerusalem was still tense tonight.

A 14-year-old girl and a youth of 18 were also wounded by the firing, but not seriously. The incidents happened not far from the site of Lazarus's tomb. In the same area, a few Arab youths suffered minor injuries when a van they had besieged forced a way through them. Clashes between students and police followed.

The Ben-Haim clashes were the gravest in a day of continued rioting on the West Bank and in Jerusalem. There was no indication that the Arab population or its civil leaders had headed the warning by Mr Peres, the Defence Minister, yesterday that "very harsh measures" would be taken if the rioting continued.

In Nabulus, the town council heard a report from the mayor, Mr Mazouz al-Masri, who was one of three leaders summoned to Tel Aviv by Mr Peres yesterday, but decided

not to withdraw the resignations they handed in a week ago after an Army attack on a school whose pupils had thrown stones at troops. Unconfirmed reports from the Ramallah area, which remained under total curfew today, said that similar decisions had been made by the mayors and councillors of Ramallah, al-Bireh, and Bir Zeit.

Violence spread to Hebron, which previously had been comparatively free of it during the present West Bank unrest. A curfew was placed on Hebron and the nearby village of Halhoul after fighting between Arab youths and troops, but the Hebron curfew was lifted before dawn.

At Halhoul, there was a pitched battle between the youths and troops who moved in to remove a road block of stones, tree branches and tyres. A number of soldiers were hit in the face by stones and, after clashes, several youths were taken into custody.

In Hebron there were more road blocks and streets were filled with black smoke from burning tyres. Part of the violence was directed against Jewish settlers from the nearby fortified estate of Kiryat Arba, who were attacked as they marched in procession to the mosque of Abruham. There is resentment in Hebron, a town of 40,000 Muslims, of the Israeli Government's decision giving equal rights in the mosque to the few hundred Jews from Kiryat Arba.

The focus of the rioting in Jerusalem is the Al Aqsa mosque on the Temple Mount. Arabs have interpreted the recent magistrate's decision that Jews ought to have the right to pray on the Mount as a danger signal, but the Hebron arrangement will be introduced there.

Seal hunt
protest
called off
in CanadaFrom John Best
Ottawa, March 17

One of two groups attempting to disrupt the annual hunting of baby seals off Newfoundland's north coast was reported today to have called off its protest after its helicopter was seized by Canadian Ministry of Fisheries officials. Mr Brian Davies, the executive director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, said the group had achieved its goal of focusing world attention on the killing, against which animal lovers in many countries had been crusading for years.

"We can't stop the hunt but our mission has been accomplished," Mr Davies said in St Anthony, Newfoundland. He faces charges in connection with landing the organization's helicopter several times within half a mile of the seal herd on ice floes drifting past Newfoundland, contrary to fisheries regulations.

Mr Davies described the seizure as illegal, arguing that it took place in international waters. His objective, with a handful of followers, was to keep Canadian and Norwegian fishermen away from the muddy-looking and photogenic seal pups.

The season started on Monday and by yesterday some 14,000 seals had been killed for their pelts. Many more apparently were saved by the intervention of Mr Davies and his party.

Meanwhile, the second protest group, from the Greenpeace Foundation of Vancouver, was making plans to try to enlist popular support among Newfoundlanders.

A spokesman said the 13-member party intended to find out whether local people would go out on the ice floes and join Foundation members in a campaign to spray the ice with green dye. The dye would render pelts worthless.

A general who has decided to return to politics
emphasizes his country's need for leadership

Israelis 'have become demoralized'

David Spanier
Somatic Correspondent

One of the great swash-bucklers of the Israeli Air Force, General Ezer Weizman, decided to return to active duty. "We need new leaders," he declares confidently. "The country is in a horrible state, and personally I am far more worried about our internal situation than I am about what Arabs are doing, or whether or not they transport planes in America."

A Minister of Transport with somewhat stop-go record in a Labour coalition of 1969-70, General Weizman has more recently been concentrating on his business affairs. He also has time to write an autobiography, published today and titled *On Eagles' Wings*. Sorry it's such a corny title, but it's great stuff," he says.

Spounding his political position as a member of the right-wing Likud party grouping, General Weizman says: "Leadership is the same as command." You have to know where you are going. "We are distinguished uncle," said Weizman, the first "son of Israel" used to "Jews are like everybody else, only a little bit more so." "It's what leadership is all about, bringing out a little bit in people."

General Weizman describes his plan thus: "What matters is Israel is the West Bank. We need it. It is ours. It is essential for security."



General Weizman: "Know where you are going."

uncle used to say: 'It's a conflict between two rights.' "If the Palestinians want to sit down and talk to us, all right, we shall work something out. It is a refugee problem, and we can find ways of settling it; but Tel Aviv and Haifa they cannot have."

There is one snag about his plan, as General Weizman immediately admits. "It won't be accepted by the Arabs. I know that. But we have to know where we are going, we want to tell Dr Kissinger: 'Look, this is our objective and this is what we want.'"

"Let the world complain about the Jews," he scoffs. "The people of Israel have become demoralized and we have to straighten up our backbone."

On the economic front, he is no less forthright. "I am not an economist but I have been to university and worked in business. We have to sit down with the trade unions, decide what the real causes of inflation are and work out the answer. We can settle all our economic problems if we get the right leadership."

General Weizman will be high on the Likud list for the next Knesset elections in 1976 or 1977, and looks forward to making a fresh contribution to Israeli politics.

As he says at the end of his book: his aircraft from whose cockpit he has seen bright mornings and dark clouds, has been in the hangar for repairs and a polish, and he is ready to go again—up, up and away.

Syria intervenes to check
attack on Beirut palacefrom Paul Martin
Beirut, March 17

Syria applied new pressure on the warring parties in Lebanon today, making it clear that it stood opposed to military attempts to oust President Elias Aoun. While Syria continued to reach a tactical solution to the crisis, the Lebanese Army, led by General Aziz Abiad, leader of the army, promised to call off the time being a threatened attack on the presidential palace.

Mr Aoun, whose remarks can be taken to mirror the official Syrian viewpoint, rebuffed those who staged the coup against President Aoun and subsequently tried to remove him by force. Scoffing at this "televised coup," he declared that it played into the hands of the Americans and those who want to divide Lebanon.

Nevertheless, it is certain that the Syrian protection of President Aoun is only a temporary expedient aimed at preventing the situation from further out of control. The bargaining at present going on is merely aimed at finding an "honourable" way for Mr Aoun to step down.

Four young Britons jailed for possessing Israeli weapons were among 1,000 prisoners freed when bands of gunmen took over four state prisons in Lebanon. Those released included murderers, robbers and others serving sentences for capital crimes, including a Tupamaros-style terrorist group.

Two of the Britons are women, who were incarcerated in the Ramel el-Zarif prison for women on the fringes of a Beirut battle zone. They have now been taken into the care of the British consul, Mr Terence Gardner.

Hearst trial
evidence
completed

San Francisco, March 17—

The eight-week-old trial of Patricia Hearst on bank robbery charges ended its and today with her mother testifying that the kidnapped heiress was a "very warm and loving girl."

Mrs Catherine Hearst, aged 54, appeared at one time on the verge of tears.

Her daughter, accused of going over to her kidnappers and joining the Symbionese Liberation Army in a bank robbery here in April, 1974 sat stiffly with her eyes downcast during most of Mrs Hearst's testimony.

Mrs Hearst denied prosecution claims that her daughter was already bitter towards her prosperous family before the kidnapping and was ripe to become a rebel.

"Does that bear any semblance to the Patty Hearst that was your daughter prior to the kidnapping?" Mr F. Lee Bailey, the defence lawyer asked.

"None whatever," Mrs Hearst replied.

Yesterday, Mr Randolph Hearst, Patricia's father, also rejected the suggestion that she was angry and resentful against her family. He told the court: "She was a very bright, girl, pretty. She was strong-willed and still is that. She is fun to be with."

Mrs Hearst's testimony today completed the evidence of witnesses in the trial which began on February 4, the second anniversary of the kidnapping. There have been 46 prosecution witnesses and 20 defence witnesses in addition to Miss Hearst, who spent eight days on the witness stand. —Reuters.

Above: Deirdre Daines, 26, paints in an eyrie above Cambridge Circus whose windows are latticed by the branches of the giant plane trees outside. She studied at Walthamstow School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools, and besides much admiring her rendering of the human tissues of skin and hair and eyes, I loved her delicate and evocative pen and wash sketches of children.

Cream Qiana off-the-shoulder dress by Yuki.

● Lady Cynthia Asquith, so I understand, was painted by five artists at once—not, as far as I know, all at the same time, her ladyship upon a rotating pedestal, or anything of that kind, but actually going to their individual studios and sitting still for a couple of hours at a time. I begin with this piece of information in order to defuse some of the indignation which might be engendered in the hearts of the high-minded by the fact that I have just been painted by three artists, at the same time, and similarly not upon a single pedestal, but slogging to and from their various studios.

However, since there may still be a measurable faction of readers whose buttered breakfast toast is cooling while their indignation boils up at such a preposterously narcissistic idea, let me drain that particular pool with one tweak at the plug. I have, as it happens, not much cause for optimism in betraying what I actually look like to those who have heretofore enjoyed what I write. Last year a reader (anonymous) wrote to inform me that having seen my "fat, characterless, curran bun face and dreadful clothes", he/she was no longer going to read my column, which he/she had previously much enjoyed. This missile was accompanied by a snap from *The Tatler*.

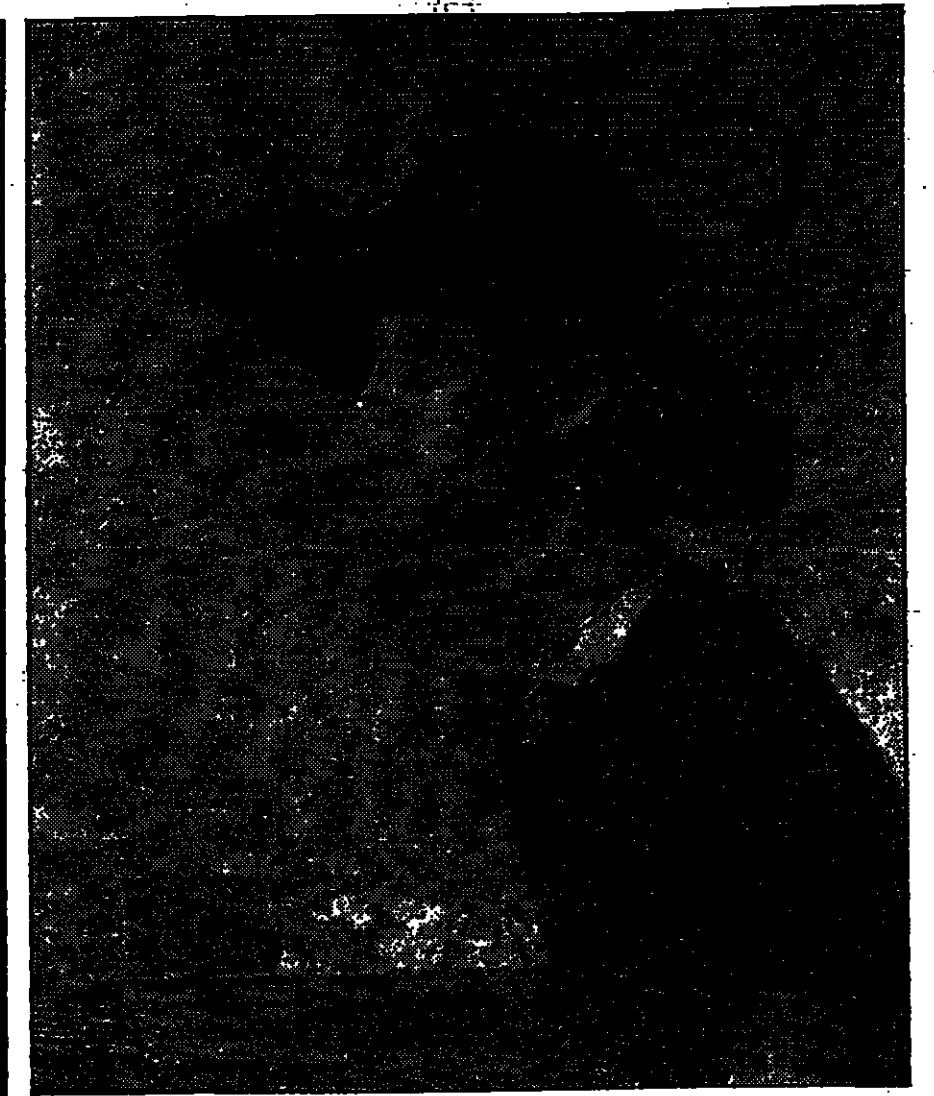
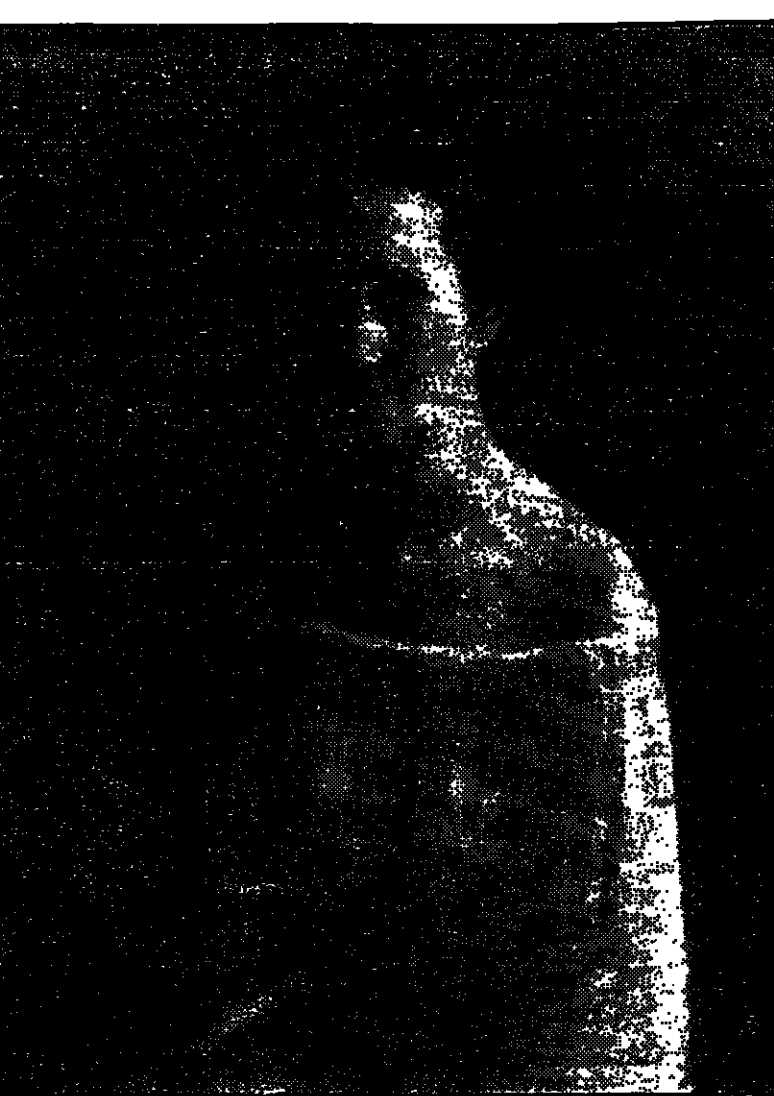
The fact that the picture appeared to have been ripped out of the page suggested that the copy of the magazine from which it was cropped may not have been the reader's own (the hairdresser's perhaps?), but this was not the moral dilemma which most struck me. For was I to offer my editor the price of a year's subscription to *The Times*, of which my grisly phantasies (and dreadful clothes) had indubitably deprived him, or should I sue *The Tatler*? Beside me in the photo, beaming gamely—

for he roars to be portrayed—was my husband, benignly unaware of the disastrous figure cut by his wife; as it happens, he always tells me I come out looking Chinese. So you can see that when

Fashion

Three artists
in search of the
fashion editor

by Prudence Glynn



Above: Kenneth Green is so delightful and so urbane that he must put the most nervous sitter at ease. Both fast and disciplined after a life's devotion to arts, he has also done costumes and sets for opera at Glyndebourne and elsewhere.

Black pure wool Challis dress by Leslie Poole for Peter Robinson, big dark brown velours hat with a black veil by Frederick Fox, Bruton Street.

Left: David Remfrey, 34, studied at Hull College of Art. He lives with his wife, lucky, who has a sick, fluffy cat in East Dulwich with the two small children. Positive, funny, a proficient marksman who abhors killing, and a vegetarian by choice (having just seen *La Bohème*, I had visions of starving need), David Remfrey paints with a sympathetic precision and does particularly delicious nudes which anyone with a more vivid private life than I might care to consider.

Mushroom pink evening dress made from a single piece of material by Yuki. Available from Lucienne Phillips, 89 Knightsbridge.



The make-up in all three pictures is foundation, Ultima 11 Creme Foam by Charles Revson, Soft Film Compact Rouge by Estee Lauder, Silk Long Lash Brush on Mascara by Helena Rubinstein, and Estee Lauder's Re-Nutriv Lipstick, colour Redwood. The necklace in all the pictures is a crystal drop suspended from gilt leaves on a fine wire circlet by Princess Helietta Caracciolo, of Rome, the bracelets by Corocraft. Hair by David Perez of Uppercuts, South Wimbledon.

The three portraits are on show at the Portrait Centre, The New Grafton Gallery, 1a Grafton Street, London W1 (01-499 1800).

David Wolfers, who started the Portrait Centre at the New Grafton Gallery in 1969 (the gallery opened the previous year—after nine years as a talk writer for the BBC and 11 years as public relations manager for Shell Chemicals and 15 years' concurrent art criticism—wrote to ask me if I would select any three of his luminous stable of portraits and offer myself as a subject for their brushes my immediate reaction was to say, "Not Pygmalion likely."

Reflection, however, induced a less selfish view. I think it must have been established by now that I believe passionately in the creative talent of this country, and in the need to expose and encourage new generations of that talent. It happens that I am not placed privately to be a patron of the arts as I should like, but I have a privileged opportunity of putting my typewriter where my mouth is via the medium of this page. Thus I decided that if the pictures would be done as pictures first and portraits second, and if the artists could have a free hand in showing what they think the fashion editor is like, I could be of use. My expert assures me that, as with all the other designers I promote, it is word of mouth and visual exposure which counts, so *voilà*, the guinea-pig.

Having said that I offered myself as a subject for a picture first and a record of likeness second, let me add a word of caution to commissioners. If you have very strong views on what you do hope you do look like, I am sure it is as well to tell the painter at the start. I mean, if you long to be seen as Boadicea it is a fundamental mistake to pick a painter who is better at the Bubbles genre. And even when you think you have got the overall style and approach selected, I recommend even the inhibited to have just one burst of confidence, as to the doctor, about how you see yourself. Otherwise you will simply be disappointed by the end product.

The portrait painter's life is not a very easy one, poised as he is between status-symbol, work of art and record of likeness, the last largely superseded by the camera, and the approach to portraits tend to be set: Women must be pretty, chairmen of banks must have lower jaws of iron will. . . . What, one wonders, would have happened to English history if Henry VIII had got a camera verité of Anne of Cleves? I, as I have explained, had no special views on how I wanted to look, though I admit I preferred neither Chinese nor fat, characterless and curran bun-like, so my initial problem was who to choose from the 16 artists at the Portrait Centre. I suppose that Ruskin Spear, Carol Weight, whom I knew from the Royal College of Art, and Peter Greenham, Keeper of the Royal Academy Schools, would be the names most familiar to most people, but I went for looks that I enjoy. I love Sargent, Boldini, the more vigorous Pre-Raphaelites, and Modigliani in terms of types I rather see myself in, so I picked out three very individualistic names with (treating carefully here, since all creative comparisons are invidious) something of echo from the above masters.

Is it dreadfully boring, sitting or standing for all those hours? Everyone seems to assume it must be, but of course it depends on your character. If, like me, you are professionally osmotic, physically idle and assiduously reflective, a couple of hours with your own thoughts and classical music (Diedre Daines), constructive and funny political and socially conscious comments (David Remfrey), or droil reminiscences of Chelsea's artistic world (Kenneth Green), can only be wholly delightful. As a matter of fact the only thing I disliked was severing what were by then unbidden cords when the sittings were ended.

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THE ARTS

Missing the message

Parcel Post
Royal Court

Irryng Wardle

That the Nigerians are a music-loving people I know from the experience of living in a terrace house with Nigerian neighbours: number 47 was jumping all all hours with infectious rhythms, while number 51 was the home of powerful prayer meetings. Watching Yemi Ajibade's comedy, my mind kept straying to the people next door, as the author has crammed both parties under the same roof.

The setting is the Folongun's Kingston flat on the day of a family celebration. Dele and his wife Tola are throwing a party for Dele's elder brother, Sam, whose child bride is flying in from Lagos (hence the title). The Folonguns, especially Tola and her niece, who are always siding over to the record player when they are not invoking magical powers.

Amazon Forest
Oxford

John Percival

At the end of a tour of one-night stands up and down the country, Margot Fonteyn on Tuesday danced the first performance in Britain of the duet which Frederick Ashton created for her last summer in Brazil. It was originally given as part of a longer ballet, *Amazon Forest*, by a Brazilian choreographer, which she turned somewhat abrupt beginning and end of the Villa-Lobos music, when it is given on its own.

NPO/Masur
Festival Hall

Max Harrison

The surprise of Tuesday's concert by the New Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Kurt Masur was that there was no surprise. Brahms's piano concerto number one (original version) the advance publicity said, and one knew at once something was wrong. In its initial form the work had been cast as a sonata for two pianos, and the second version, at least of the opening orchestral piece.

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Lack of that kind of basic detail sets up a nagging irritation-out of all proportion to its real importance.

Likewise the treatment of the central incident after the party when the bride confesses that she is pregnant. Will the family still accept her, or will they throw her out? Dele is for putting her out to work; but Sam, who hands all decisions over to Jochavah, arrives at a more charitable solution. The girl then brings marriage to an improbable conclusion by following a surprise third alternative.

It may be that, as an outsider, I have failed to pick up the message. The play is strewn with small incidents which seem to promise later development: Tola's adultery, for instance, or her niece's flirtation with the money-flicking landlord. In fact they lead nowhere; but whether that indicates a benevolent, retribution-free aspect of the Nigerian temperament, or whether it merely arises from careless plotting, I would not care to say.

However, whatever Mr. Ajibade's formal limitations, he has certainly produced a truly fine character: and Donald Howarth's cast offers some of the best black acting I have seen on any stage. Taiwo Ajai and Glenn Forster Jones as the money-flicking landlord and his wife, Rudolf Walker and the author as the two brothers, present studied collisions of temperament arising from sense of a single family. And the staff, that passes across David Short's anonymous box set, the rows with the tenant downstairs, the landlord's endlessly defeated lungs at the men's women, and the casual mix between Christianity and magic, business suits and tribal regalia, fill the house with too much life for any strict pattern to contain.

gramme: the first duet from *Swan Lake* and the *Love Duet* by Skibine which gave Nany as one of the most romantic dancers as well as an exemplary partner. Lynn Seymour and Robert North danced their Gladly *Sadly* duet, the choreography of which wears thin on repeated viewings, although the charm of Seymour's performance remains. North also partnered Seymour in extracts from *Soltire*: a solo adapted from a larger scene, and one of the duets. Her graceful choreography brought out a wistful humour in Seymour that was rather touching.

The bulk of the highly entertaining programme and all the bravura fireworks indisposed to the British side, as the company of the New London Ballet, which makes it odd that the promoters decided to mention nobody but Fonteyn in the advertisements. Galina Samsonova, the first ballerina since the first half with *Spring Waters*, evoked the first cheers.

Also outstanding were Marian St. Claire's glittering solos in *Laurencia* and *Vespre*, and the stylised of Michael Beare in four contrasted roles. James Slater conducted the International Ballet Orchestra in an evening of two variable, but sometimes high musical standards. Masur not helped by a recalcitrant amplifying system.

rumours ever circulated of an alternative, and in the programme for Tuesday's concert New Philharmonia Limited gave no details of where this new, or rather old, version had sprung from. That was unsurprising, for what we heard was in fact the usual version, conforming in every detail with the familiar Eulenburg miniature score. Why it was announced as something different one cannot imagine.

Familiar or not, Roger Woodward's performance of the solo part was magnificent in its sweep and sheer force. One could have done with a less rough tone, and with fewer smudges, yet surely this, in essence, is what the young Brahms had in mind. In accompanying the work, too, Kurt Masur impressed more than in Shostakovich's symphony No. 1.

Indeed that later performance took a while to get going, and the finale was not fully convincing and, I think, convinced. Even here the orchestral textures were not balanced sharply enough, not up to the New Philharmonia's standard, and in the first two movements the rein was never drawn sufficiently firmly for the music's ironic elements properly to register. As a consolation there was some fine individual playing among the woodwind and brass.

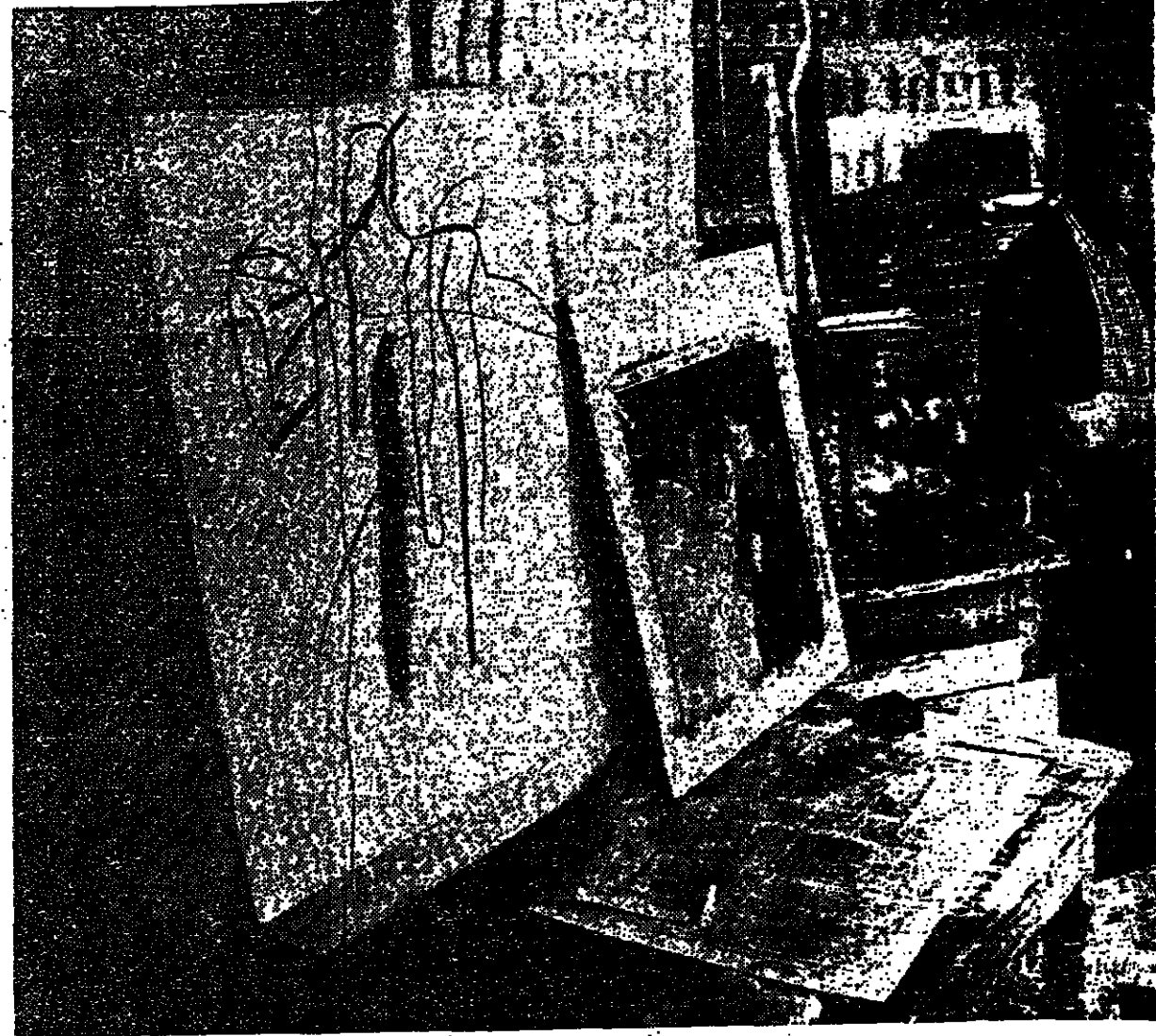
Rameau in Banqueting House

The English Bach Festival will open on April 26 in the Banqueting House, Whitehall, with a concert of French Baroque music, *Divertissement à Versailles*, which features two main themes of this year's festival, baroque instruments and La Danse Noble.

The English Bach Festival Ensemble will be conducted by John Eliot Gardiner. The programme will include Rameau's one-act opera *Pygmalion*, in a simple staging with authentic eighteenth-century dance, the opera was danced by the famous Mlle. Salle at Covent Garden in 1734. The concert also includes anniversary tributes to Clémentine and Delalande.

Other groups playing baroque instruments will be the Collegium Aureum on their visit to London, and Musica Antiqua Amsterdam, as well as the English Concert.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.



Keith Vaughan on painting

"I don't subscribe to the feeling that it is necessary to be a painter. But I think a number of people take up painting because they are thrown in on themselves." At his studio flat in Belsize Park, Keith Vaughan was talking about some of the ingredients of his own work in conjunction with his new show at the Waddington Gallery.

Vaughan's father left home when he was four years old. He was brought up at school at Christ's Hospital, and started to manufacture a fantasy world in which he could live more comfortably. During the Depression—he is now 63—he worked in the Lintas advertising agency ("that made me appreciate very small shifts of forms within a given space").

He registered his conscientious objection to combatant service in the Second World War, and was attached to the Pioneer Corps, doing jobs like navvying and bomb disposal before becoming clerk and

interpreter at a German prisoner-of-war camp in Yorkshire. Towards the end of the war he showed at Alex Reid and Lefevre, and in 1946 managed to get a teaching job at Camberwell art college, even though he had never attended one himself. He now teaches a group of graduates at the Slade, which he more enjoys.

He has remained unmarried, and retains a feeling of not being fully integrated into society. "I think I am a manic depressive by nature, but I don't think you have to be one." Paintings started in the trough of a depression don't look any different from ones you start at the top of your form, feeling you can do nothing wrong.

Although Vaughan sometimes finds the borders between his fantasy world and the real world becoming blurred, his painting is no comfortable refuge. There is more despair than satisfaction

in it, he finds, and it does not get easier. One of the problems is that while the painter has his conception fresh within him, the recalcitrant material will not work in the way it should. "You can just about keep pace with the conception, with larger canvases things get more complicated. You can't see it all at arm's length, so there has to be endless perambulation. When you're close enough to make the mark, you can't register it against the edge of the canvas."

Time fortunately makes the painter forget just what he was trying to achieve, leaving behind the achievement; and Keith Vaughan, looking back on the body of his work, feels sometimes that he is "not a total flop". He is not dismayed by the fact that he has never added an international reputation to the English painter's list, though there are shows in New York and South Africa in the offing. He confesses to being a

rather quiescent dealer and canvases alme-leries. For one of his char-

King Roger Coliseum

William Mann

After the successful performances of Szymanowski's *King Roger* by the New Opera Company last May, Charles Mackerras, who conducted them, wisely persuaded his colleagues at the English National Opera to take the work into this season's repertoire at the Coliseum, extending the life-span of Anthony Bonello's production and John Stoddard's settings. Tuesday's was the first of four performances this month and next.

The work (and this production) gains much from the larger stage in St. Martin's Lane, particularly the choreographic and spectacular episodes in the second act which now have room to achieve pace and spaciousness, to convey the devising of the Dionysian convulsions as well as their devotion to their leader. The ritual splendour of the first act is all the grander; the Greek theatre seems rather more solidly staged and lit, nor did I find King Roger's hailing the dawn, diorises to reveal himself clad like John the Baptist.

The Duenna Collegiate Theatre

Alan Blyth

A two-hundred-year-old musical form revived in its original form for the first time in at least a hundred years as part of the Camden Festival on Tuesday. Sheridan's *The Duenna* has since inspired operas by Gerhard and Prokofiev (which Camden's music have more profitably revived), but it was good to have a chance of assessing a work as heard in 1775, when it received 75 per cent of the success of the period. The music is by the Thomas Linley, father and son, with additions by other hands. The result is a harmless, unassuming and amusing concoction more notable for Sheridan's often barbed and witty text ("The character of a nun is becoming for one of a man as a masquerade") than for the memorability of its musical numbers, charming as these often are.

The story concerns a double elopement engineered with the help of the duenna of the title and is concerned to undermine an unsuitable marriage plans of two implacable fathers (only one of whom we meet). It is achieved with the unspectacular Portuguese Jew, who is in the end unmasked as a villain with an anti-Semitic and chauvinistic fury typical of the times.

Welsh Dance Theatre

The board of the Welsh Dance Theatre announces that owing to difficult financial circumstances and the lack of administrative resources with which the company has had to contend

from the start it is necessary to suspend the company after the March 22.

Housewife-Superstar!!
Apollo

Australian flags and gladioli were throughout the theatre, enormous plastic balls bounce across the people in the stalls and on the stage Dame Edna Everage, housewife extraordinaire, conducts a determined comic assault on English sensibilities. She exudes righteous antipodean arrogance, talks in pidgin English to suspected "continentals", explains that bathrooms are the Australian equivalent of the English woodshed, cheerfully offers the occasional smile to the people in the gods—in direct proportion to their lower ticket costs—and leads the audience in a hymn to the garden gladioli.

Through under the make-up and skirts Dame Edna is really Barry Humphries, writer, cartoonist and film-maker, the character is so exact such a happy distillation of middle-class certainty and prejudice, that she ranks with the whoopee cartoon and the characters of George Burns and Jack Benny as one of the last great comic inventions. Like Benny's skindint bachelor she is almost real, but becomes outrageous through self-conscious mockery. "I'm such a silly woman", is her refrain as she tells all about herself: she is snappish about a daughter-in-law who keeps plastic covers on the carpets and hairs of all colours in her razor; she is doing about her son who drops in occasionally to borrow a

Ned Chaillet

Such self-revelations require reciprocal contributions from the audience and she wheedles cushions of bathroom decor from patrons in the stalls. The use of the audience is Mr. Humphries' greatest skill. Except for his Mason's amiable and tolerant piano accompaniment, *Housewife-Superstar!!* is a one-man show, but by finding the birth-rites, names and nationalities of members of the audience Mr. Humphries peoples the show with an enormous cast. Judy, who described her bathroom to the audience, Leo, Furry, and Senior Citizen all became characters in the event to the opening-night audience.

Mr. Humphries himself played other characters. Les Patterson, his boorish, beer-bellied cultural attaché, had a word to the audience, offering the evening's entertainment as an Australian answer to the new "Pom" National Theatre. Mr. Humphries also offered himself as a mandarin, philosophical old man, reading Reader's Digest in bed in Australia while his wife tours Europe. His characterization was again exact, but only intermittently funny and often gloomy, without being in any way moving. But the manic inventiveness returned in force when Dame Edna once again flounced on stage.

It is a smashing entertainment in which Mr. Humphries juggles all cultural icons from sensuality to death and old age. Long may Dame Edna's gladioli wave over Shaftesbury Avenue.



Barry Humphries Photograph by John Timbers

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Nordic housing

a Special Report



A development near Stockholm in which old farm buildings have been preserved.

Brick walls need not a warm home make

by Alan Bailey

The response of the British housing market to the intensive promotion of Scandinavian timber homes has been variable. Local authorities in North-east Scotland, faced with immediate housing difficulties after the influx of labour because of the discovery of North Sea oil, found them quick to build and visually acceptable. Individual buyers in South-east England and the principal resort areas find them elegant and comfortable second homes—and sometimes better-than-average first homes.

The leisure industry—the creators of holiday villages and related amenities—find them long-lasting and substantially more attractive than the traditional mobile homes and chalets to which the British have become accustomed.

Of course, the British are conservative about housing. This conservatism results in the continuance of traditional design, the perpetuation of the neo-Georgian and mock-Tudor styles, and a preference for brick, stone, tile and slate with occasional lapses into concrete.

Log cabins smack of the amateur home-builder in the far west a century or so ago, garden sheds and draughty rural bus shelters. To live in a log cabin for more than a week or two during the annual holiday is not quite British.

But we could be wrong. Log homes are traditional in the tough climate of Scandinavia. Some houses weatherproof accommodation during long bleak Nordic winters were built more than 600 years ago; and modern techniques of insulation and styling which are now built into the factory-made log houses provide thermally efficient, long-lasting and attractive homes.

The Norwegians, Swedes and Finns have been pains-taking about their market. The efforts of the manufacturers have been supplemented by the trade associations and governments. Marketing and distribution companies have been established in the United Kingdom and British contractors, capable of constructing log housing efficiently, have been carefully selected. The results can already be seen in many parts of Britain.

Typical are the Moelven Brug systems. This Norwegian group manufactures 3,000 houses a year in three forms: pre-cut, panel and modular. The pre-cut system is merely the delivery of timber components in pack, the house being built on site in the traditional way. The panel system—called the large element—provides for factory construction of front and rear walls including glazing. The panels incorporate a moisture barrier and external cladding and the four-inch cavity is filled with insulating material. The modular system creates housing of varying sizes from a single unit of prefabricated rectangular units 8 x 3 x 2.4 metres with all windows, doors, wiring, interior partition walls and decoration complete and, for bathroom and kitchen units, all necessary fittings installed.

After accurate preparation of foundations, work on site is limited to lifting each module into position. Although primarily single storey, the system can incorporate roof level bedrooms with dormer windows. On site, the erection of a house on the module system takes five days from start to finish—an important factor in remote locations. Moelven Brug has built 322 large element houses and 180 by the module system in Britain.

The great merit of building in timber is speed. About 95 per cent of new homes are built of timber in Norway—and Sweden and Finland more than 90 per cent of new houses are based on a prefabricated timber frame system. The Scandinavian climate tended to force the pace—often appalling weather conditions and short days during a long winter—and encouraged investment in systems which could be built in a factory all the year round and be erected on site as quickly as possible.

Scale of imports not dramatic

It was speed which appealed to the local authorities of Nordic systems in North-east Scotland and, although the scale of imports has not been dramatic, rather more Scandinavian buildings have been erected in Britain than might be imagined.

In North-east Scotland Moelven Brug have built 500 for local authorities. Of the other major Norwegian firms, Block Wanne have supplied 490 units for local authorities in the Grampian Firth area, 150 in Aberdeenshire and 90 in Shetland; Steinkjer Boligindustri have supplied 350 for local authorities and private buyers; and Brodrene Fjogstad have introduced about 50 in various locations including the Shetlands and the west coast of Scotland.

Swedish firms have provided about 200 houses, the largest individual supplier being Borohus, which has introduced 150 units in Aberdeenshire. Finnish firms have not been so active—probably providing less than 50 units overall, but these include some private houses in Edinburgh.

The potential market in second homes has not yet been exploited to any extent in Britain. The Scandinavians have rather more space for their populations and second homes for holidays are common. Design and thermal insulation are taken seriously—for example, Elementhus of East Grinstead, the British arm of a Swedish company, offers triple glazing as standard, probably the only firm of this kind to do so. The triple glazing system was developed in Sweden as a result of the energy crisis.

The Elementhus range includes detached houses and semi-detached houses and these can be clad to meet the requirements of clients or to suit planning conditions. The firm has built an essentially Swedish style house in a Cotswold village and clad it externally in Cotswold stone.

The British second home market could strengthen appreciably. Certainly, the caravan villages could well be replaced by the log cabins exported by the Finns, Norwegians and Swedes.

Internal standards of finish need not perhaps be quite so high for holiday home purposes—the present high standards reflect those popular in the builder's home market, largely because at home the insides of the houses are lived in through the long winters. The high standards of insulation could well be lowered for the British market, too. The British have less feeling for temperature than the Scandinavians, particularly on holiday.

Few changes for Japa

There has long been dissatisfaction with the internationalism of modern architecture. Cities throughout the world have developed an often boring sameness as office blocks rise in unrehearsed uniformity, as shopping centres are built on similar lines everywhere. But one of the most interesting steps towards internationalism in building must be the creation of a traditional Finnish log cabin village in Japan.

Karuizawa is a village holiday resort at the southern entrance to the Japanese Alps. The resort lies 3,250ft above sea level and is one of the most popular holiday areas in Japan. The area is about 100 miles west of Tokyo and holidaymakers can reach it in a little more than two hours by car and a little more than an hour by train. The park is in the mountainous region on Honshu island, a place of high peaks, cascading waterfalls and great scenic beauty. It has constant sunshine during the summer but its altitude ensures cooling breezes. With all this, its popularity is not surprising.

The area boasts many holiday hotels and is the site of the second homes of the wealthy including the Japanese Imperial Family. It sports golf courses, skating rink, efficacious hot springs, skiing in winter and the usual facilities like tennis courts. It is also a haven for Japanese writers; the natural beauty of the area inspiring them to vivid prose.

In 1972 the Japanese advertised in Finnish and Scandinavian newspapers for the supply of 400 holiday cabins and additional related facilities for a holiday village in Japan. S. Lagerholm of Lovisa, near Helsinki, won the contract. The first phase was for 200 cabins. The second phase was dependent on the first phase arriving intact within three months—and was the second phase which was to include, as well as the remaining 200 cabins, the shops and restaurant which would create the total village scene.

Needless to say, the first phase arrived in time. The consignment was transported across Russia and Siberia to its eastern seaboard and shipped to Japan from there. Few modifications were required to the standard units to suit the Japanese and the entire development is in traditional Scandinavian style. The cabins are all of two and

three bedroom sizes, each to accommodate at least four people. Finnish advisers were sent to supervise the design of foundations and the assembly of the cabins and other buildings. The construction work was done by the Seiba Company of Japan, which has been responsible for building several hotels and other leisure buildings in Japan.

The interiors of the cabins and most of the other buildings are in traditional style in that walls have been left as they were built, without internal cladding. The logs were treated and the walls, roofs and floors were supplied complete with double glazing was standard throughout. The furnishings of the cabins are western in style. The completed village which took two years to supply and complete—from 1972 to 1974—was intended for letting for holiday purposes; but a few of the log cabins have been sold outright.

So delighted were the Japanese with their village that they imported a Finnish reindeer to add more local colour to the opening ceremony.

Lagerholm's United Kingdom presence is through Lancashire's Finnimport (UK) of Gerrards Cross. The firm was established three years ago and imports log cabin and house components directly from Finland. The firm has a mobile factory which goes to new felling areas and processes the timber into its housing components on the spot.

The engineering is advanced and each log cabin



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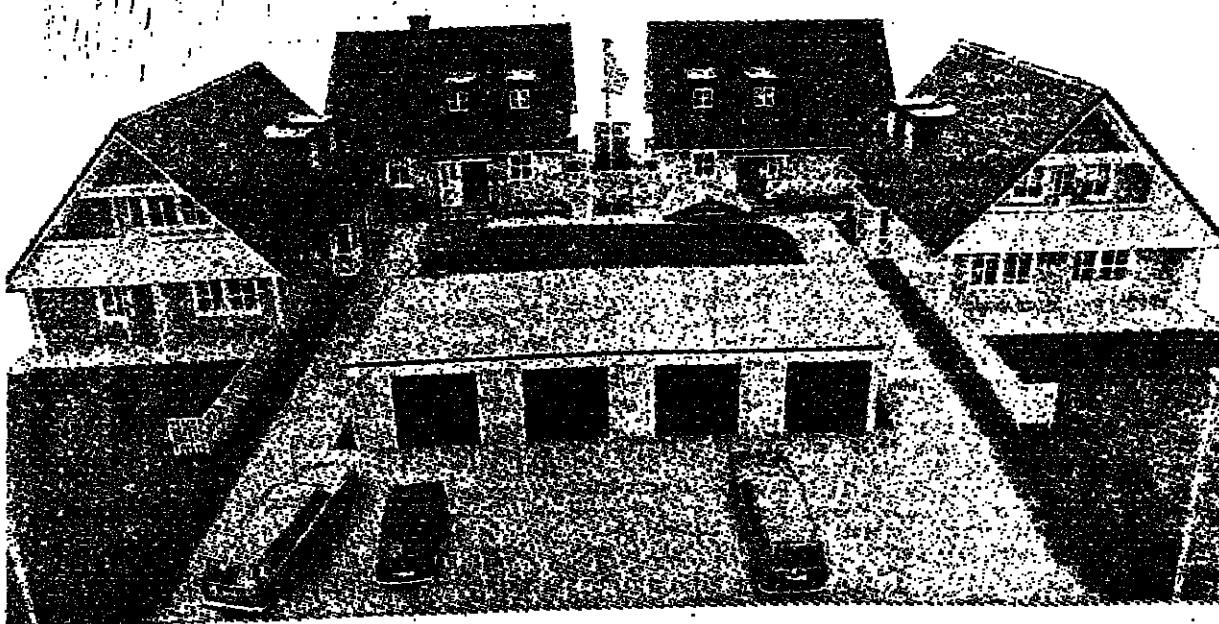
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Big potential for timber frames

by Edward Townsend

Over-frame housing has the biggest growth potential in the industry in Britain, according to a leading builder. As yet it is a sector that has hardly been explored and it is the role of manufacturers, who have built a reputation for quality and expert knowledge, who are doing the groundwork.

Competition between them is fierce, both at home and overseas markets. In Britain the Norwegian producers are dominant, thanks to some big contracts in Scotland, but it has been difficult to get Swedish and Finnish firms to establish subsidiaries and let out the battle lines.

The price to be fought for could be rich. Timber-frame houses, although not cheap, are easy and quick to erect and, because they are developed in northern countries, offer a high standard of insulation. The system appears to be ideal for individual house buyers and for local councils seeking speedy erection of housing estates.

In particular, the timber-frame system has been successful in the West of Scotland where there has been a strong need to find homes for the large number of workers who come to the oil boom.

Both Finnish and Norwegian manufacturers are present. The Finnish prefabricated housing sales organization, Esara, is on a share of a big Scottish deal, while Moelven of Norway has seen its steel used in the construction of a new development in British built-up areas.

Barratt has used timber-frame prefabricated units to build local authority housing in the last 18 months. The system is also used on four private schemes.

William Bruce Barratt, managing director of Barratt Developments, says that in seven months a possible 18 months conventional construction methods been used.

One of the reasons of the success of prefabrication is that it is today a well-developed system. Barratt built those 137 houses with a fifth of the time it would normally take. At the time of building labour in the east of Scotland was so unobtainable and the who were available commanding premium prices.

Today, the need to reduce employment could force local authorities to consider any plans for erecting with the timber-frame prefabrication method.

Against that, however, the speed of construction means that shorter periods of erection. In one case it took on the finance for the houses had to be found within seven months rather than 18 months. Mr Bruce Barratt says that there were no "costs of delay" in erecting a timber-frame house in the middle of the desert where all other houses were faced with white concrete.

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Paying special attention to insulation

The range of cabins, bungalows and houses available from Norway, Sweden and Finland is wide. Most of them are of obvious Scandinavian origin in design, but some have that international anonymity which many buyers seem to prefer. No matter which particular supplier is chosen, the range has a number of standard features which stem from the climate of the countries which produce them.

The most apparent is the high standard of thermal insulation. Harsh winters, long nights and short days mean that Scandinavians need homes which can withstand the rigours of climate. Quite apart from the climate, the Scandinavians seem to prefer marginally higher internal temperatures and, in consequence, particular attention is given to insulation and heat conservation. Windows are often double-glazed rather than double-glazed with often a 50mm gap between the panes. Blinds can be fitted between the panes. Triple glazing is now being stipulated as a result of the energy crisis.

In the walls, there is usually at least 100mm of mineral wool packed in an insulating barrier and there is at least 150mm thickness of the same material between the ceiling joists. Doors are often double-glazed like the windows and can be hollow-core, packed with insulating material.

Metal windows are rarely used but the ironmongery on doors and windows is advanced in both design and effectiveness. "Tension" windows which swivel have been introduced and recently some firms have been experimenting with ventilation holes in the window units so that the windows need never be opened. High insulation standards mean that conditioning equipment is often necessary.

Roof cladding is traditional and similar claddings common in the United Kingdom can be used. There is a trend towards sheet materials which are easily transported and fix copper, aluminium and asbestos. The materials are durable and suit the varying weather experienced throughout the year. Heating is also traditional in the modern sense - oil-fired or electrical central heating - but many Scandinavian houses and bungalow types available on the British market incorporate a small log-burning fire more as a focal point than a source of heat.

The Scandinavians like large living rooms - once again probably an effect of the climate. The Finns are fond of saunas and most Finnish models have a sauna built in. The British market is not always receptive to the sauna idea and buyers sometimes convert the sauna space to another small bedroom, extra living space or simply a junk cupboard.

The British impose high standards in their building regulations - rather higher than those of the Scandinavians for wiring and plumbing. The suppliers have adapted to the requirements and the bathroom and kitchen units which are incorporated in the houses supplied to the British market are of a high standard.

The Scandinavians are also strong believers in the use of basements made from concrete or lightweight insulating blocks. A bungalow built in, say, Sweden could have twice the floor area of the same kind of surface building in Britain. Building regulations and building costs in this country probably make basement building prohibitively expensive.

Generally, of course, the size of houses and bungalows in Scandinavia tends to be larger than in the United Kingdom and both internally and externally the quality is much higher than is usually found here. The cost per square metre of space provided is higher, but the Scandinavians are adjusting well to the British market.



Making prefabricated houses at a sawmill at Riihimäki, 40 miles from Helsinki.

Barrett Developments of Newcastle, which has the sole rights to import and build the products of Moelven Brug, has been importing single and two-storey all-timber units from Norway for the past two years. Mr Brodie Dunn, of the company's Aberdeen office, says his firm built 492 Moelven Brug houses on six sites within 30 miles of Aberdeen in 18 months.

The urgency which resulted in this flurry of activity has passed and the traditional house builders, who took some time to adjust to the oil boom, are now bidding for the continuing housing work. Mr Dunn is still in a position to compete - although the base price of his Norwegian-manufactured product is high. Speed of erection, earlier rental income and fewer maintenance problems before contract completion are the basis of his competitiveness.

In any timber houses, treatment is important. Timber treatment regulations are less stringent in Scandinavia than in Britain. The logs can be treated at increased cost to meet the United Kingdom regulations by pressure, dip, brushing or spraying. Window frames can be treated through an advanced method of pressure impregnation incorporating a colour pigment - a new development not yet generally adopted. A century-old red pigment stain (iron oxide) has been used widely in suburban areas and in farm buildings and a wood preservative can be incorporated in this treatment.

The attitudes of British local planning authorities towards the log cabin style are generally tolerant. Obviously, there would be reluctance to permit the erection of a cabin in a densely urban location, but rural situations provide a good setting for single buildings, groups or even whole villages. The range of buildings available includes shops and restaurants and some buildings are suitable as sports pavilions and club houses.

The standards are high, the product in the right setting is visually attractive and the manufacturers are sufficiently adaptable to meet the variable requirements of the local authorities.

Land of a million saunas

by Donald Fields

Though it originated in the Volga valley, the authentic sauna is as Finnish as champagne is French and scotch Scottish. The Finns have allowed others to steal a march on them, such as allowing the Germans to build up a huge capacity, much of it pale imitations of the real product.

Sauna building accounted for almost 5 per cent of total wooden prefabricated house exports of Fmk 35.2m in 1975. Houses containing saunas were valued at Fmk 7.6m, and indoor saunas - mainly installed in hotels and flats - at Fmk 5.6m. A Fmk 9.4m bonus came from sauna stoves, while such accessories as wooden bowls and ladles, birch switches and cosmetics helped to push sauna-oriented exports to about Fmk 25m, about £3.2m.

Roughly half the world market remains in Finland, a land of a million saunas, where domestic manufacturers encounter little outside competition. As exporters the Finns come off best in Sweden, West Germany and the Soviet Union for outdoor saunas; in West Germany and the United Kingdom for indoor models; and in the United States and Sweden for heaters.

Great strides in Britain

Saunas and stoves are almost without exception produced by separate firms. Roughly a dozen companies are listed as sauna-building manufacturers, some of them agents of wood-processors, a lot of them leaning heavily on foreign agents who may have many other irons in the fire.

In this disparate business, Rantasilta is untypical in its high share of sauna output exported - more than half. Combining spruce interiors with pine exteriors, it has made impressive strides in the booming municipal sauna business in the United Kingdom, where Edinburgh corporation has invested in one of the world's largest public saunas.

Sauna-builders, willing to tailor-make their products for local conditions, are constantly introducing refinements - aluminium-panels and fibre-glass insulation to produce the requisite amount of moisture; redwood or cedar panelling, at

which Finns would shudder. To ease the Americans, attractive prefabricated log structures that can be assembled in a few minutes.

As critical for sauna enjoyment as the building is the stainless steel stove, whose heat output should accord with the sauna's dimensions. In Finland there may still be 250 makers of wood-burning stoves operating like village blacksmiths, but the dearth of wood abroad means that exports are almost confined to electric models produced by large firms.

The prominence of the United States in the sauna heater market owes much to the efforts of Hela, which has overcome voltage and amperage problems to win approval in 37 countries.

A scientific approach is employed by Kantor, whose managing director, Professor Nillo Teeri, says: "Many of the electrically-heated saunas made abroad do not produce superheated steam waves or ionize the air when water is thrown on the stones." The diabolical stones, high in metal content, cover the sauna stove. Crucial in obtaining the tingling sauna sensation, they are changed yearly. Again, a stove lifespan of 10 years.

Demand for the sauna, an essential in Finland but a luxury elsewhere, has inevitably dipped since the energy crisis, but there are signs of an upturn. Manufacturers, jealous guardians of their own independence, may gradually be learning the value of teamwork. Last December six Finnish producers commanding 10 per cent of the high-potential West German market launched a joint project in association with their agents, and this might herald a combined assault in other countries.

Meanwhile, all who enjoy a genuine, Finnish sauna are disconcerted to see advertisements for saunas made in Sweden sports stadia. Unimaginative in communicating with the outside world, the Finns need to brush up their ideas about a product they should sell easily.

As Mrs Hannell Holmberg, of the Finnish Foreign Trade Association, explains: "The Swedes are not doing any harm. They advertise a lot, but their products are not as good as ours. Our companies should invest more in marketing and cooperate better with their agencies abroad."

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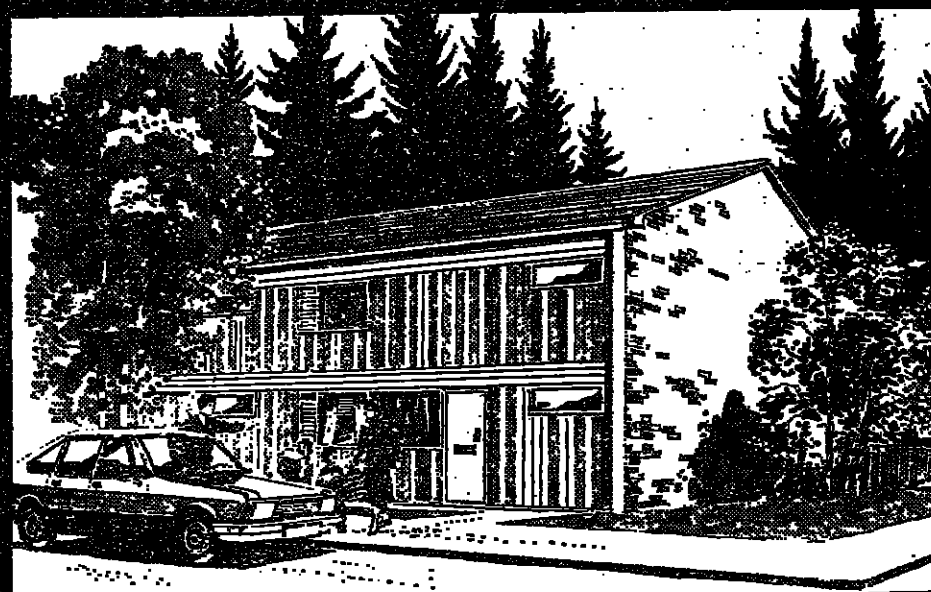
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Bernard Levin

Making my peace, finally, with Mr Wilson

Harold Wilson's sense of the political dramatic was always acute, and never more so than in the manner of his departure from the office for which he had so long striven and in which his mastery of the political arts was so unceasingly displayed, to the confounding of the prophets, the discomfiture of his critics and the helpless rage of his political opponents.

It is probable that none of his critics ever said more things intended to wound him, or anything intended to wound him more deeply, than did I. It would be absurd and hypocritical if I were now to suggest, merely because he has left office (he is not dead after all, and even if he were, it would not be seemly for me to strew artificial flowers on his grave) that I never meant it. But a just assessment of his career, his praise and blame duly apportioned, can wait a week or two; and the judgment of history can safely be left to history, which will get it wrong as usual. To day, though, I can hardly not write in the political first person. I think it is both possible and proper now that it is at last no longer necessary to wage political war on him, for me to make the allowances that I always refused before.

The insoluble dilemma

Harold Wilson's leadership of the Labour Party was beset by an insoluble political dilemma. The dilemma did not exist in any serious sense, for Attlee, and it was still soluble in the time of Gaitskell. But by the time Mr Wilson first became Prime Minister, it was apparent that the circle could not be squared, and the career of his career, in office and out, was dominated by the fact that although the Labour Party was like other political groupings in that it was a coalition of different interests, it was unique in that the two main interests over which he presided were ultimately incompatible; there is no way in which those who want a Marxist state, if necessary (or even for preference) at the cost of economic and political democracy, can be forever combined with those who want social democracy to remain fully democratic.

Those were the two bareback horses this incomparable political stunt man had to ride simultaneously; and he did his of keeping the Labour Party, with all its inherited and acquired responsibilities as the voice of organized labour, from coming apart. The scorn he used to express in private for those of his critics who either did not understand this or who (like me) refused to admit that it should be his highest political duty was perfectly genuine, and given his point of departure, perfectly fair.

For it was not, after all, as if he had no views of the matter himself. Whatever charges can be made against Harold Wilson, nobody could ever accuse him of an indifference to democracy; politically, temperamentally and morally he stood on the social-democratic side of the chasm. That being so, the skill with which he fashioned the trail bridges of words that kept the two sides connected, was of an exception-

ally high—indeed uniquely high—order.

Harold Wilson always maintained that the Labour Party's great battle over defence in which Gaitskell defied the left, in his "fight, fight and fight again" speech was unnecessary, that a formula could be found that would preserve the substance while leaving both sides reasonably content. It seemed impossible; left wing not only far more powerful but far more worldly, too, he managed it again and again, beckoned on each time by the lights that spelled out "unity". Over defence, over foreign policy, over unemployment, finally over the reductions in the rate of increase in public spending, he managed the impossible. Perhaps the absurd revolt of the left in the House of Commons last week, though he contained it with contemptuous ease (for all their spluttering, he knew they would not bring down the Government, and they knew he knew), was the blow that weakened him finally, that made him face the truth that, however many times he could yet succeed in steering the two horses, they would come apart in the end.

The extraordinary thing about his balancing act was how little damage it did the country for so long. It may even be that the realization that that state of affairs had come to an end, that the attempt to reconcile the irreconcilable was now eating away at the foundations of our liberties and our economic survival alike, was what prepared his mind and his will for the final exit, which might have been brought about in any one of a dozen ways, even if in fact it was caused as I have suggested. (But speculation about Harold Wilson's motives never was a very useful exercise.)

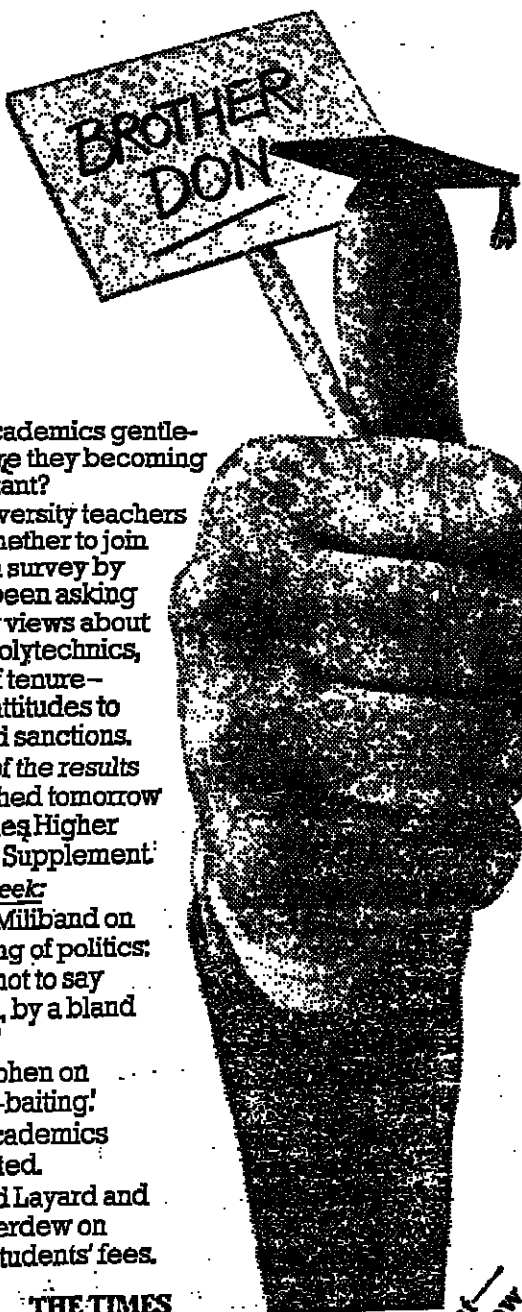
The fearful struggle

I do not envy his successor. And I doubt if his successor will long envy himself. The country is going to go through a bad time, and the Labour Party through a worse one, and though they may both survive to better days, it will not be without a fearful struggle. No doubt whoever leads the party will deem it necessary to count without Harold Wilson's skill, Harold Wilson's achievements will be impossible, and in any case the irony of the situation lies in the fact that the breakup of the Labour Party may be the only thing that can save the country.

But these speculations can wait, too. For the present, the only thing remaining for me to do is to wish Harold Wilson a long and happy retirement, and to conclude by expressing my certainty that whatever he decides to do in it, he will succeed in surprising us all yet again.

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In a recent article on this page on forestry in Britain, Ronald Faux said that capital gains tax is a severe disincentive to forestry. This should have read capital transfer tax.



Are academics gentlemen—or are they becoming more militant?

As university teachers vote on whether to join the FUC, a survey by NOP has been asking them their views about salaries, polytechnics, security of tenure—and their attitudes to strikes and sanctions.

More of the results are published tomorrow in The Times Higher Education Supplement.

Also this week: Ralph Miliband on the teaching of politics; 'suffused, not to say suffocated, by a bland orthodoxy'.

Stan Cohen on 'Sociology-baiting'.

How academics get promoted.

Richard Layard and Tony Flowerdew on overseas students' fees.

THE TIMES

HIGHER EDUCATION

SUPPLEMENT

Fleet Street's new willingness to help itself persuade the Government to lend a hand

Something funny happened to the Press Commission's interim report on its way to the agenda for Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, and consideration of its recommendations was just as the Prime Minister's resignation. Thus the story that stimulated newspaper sales and excited editorial and production staff has left management and union leaders in suspense about their futures and whether government help is forthcoming.

If the details and recommendations of the interim report are any guide, no government help is necessary. There is no confusion about the financial plight of the national newspaper industry (including the two London evening papers), and the commission's contention that this is the proper time for help, is substantiated by a table of negative cash flow figures. Even with realization of some assets and where applicable, injections of cash from the main groups' other sources of income, allied to heavy borrowing, the picture is gloomy—£10.1m loss for the quality papers and £1.5m for the populars.

By themselves, such figures might suggest that the press is an unworthy cause, but the improvement in 1976 projections—respectively nearly £8m and a shade above £1m—puts a new light on the scene. Even without completing the introduction of new assets and before reducing staff to realistic levels, the industry has clearly learned to help itself.

On average, a quality daily costs

it can ever recover in sales, advertising and other revenue. Multiply that by total sales, and the arithmetic gets worse. Quality dailies lost nearly £4m in 1975. Quality Sundays lost £3m and, although the popular papers managed a combined total profit, they are still losing fractionally on a cost per copy basis.

So much for 1975, but it does need to be remembered that 1974 was a disaster year and each updating of figures, plus forward projections, must be viewed in context. For most publishing concerns, the situation is critical. There is no sign of costs levelling out, sales are being dented by rising prices of all goods so that there is considerably reduced spending power.

The current year will, for many titles, be the third successive year of loss. Of eight daily and seven Sunday papers (the *Morning Star* asked to be excluded from the report) only four dailies and one Sunday showed any kind of profit in 1975—the allocation of costs and other overheads may sometimes belie the performance of any single title but the parent group's year-end result cannot be distorted in the same way.

Newspaper is mainly outside the control of publishers, or even of the government, and the price of imports is constantly affected by the rising cost of oil and a weak pound, to say nothing of worldwide inflation.

The only way to reduce costs is to go for higher productivity by modern methods and the reduction

of manpower. The state of the London evenings is such that those perpetual rumours of a merger between the two, followed by the emergence of a new central London newspaper from Mr Rupert Murdoch's *Sun/News of the World* group, carry some credence. However, as the commissioners state in their report, mergers are not the real answer to the survival of all existing newspaper titles, which is the aim of unions and managements.

All parties tend to believe that democracy is best served by the daily publication of many differing views. And the cost? Estimates are that redundancies and the essential improvement of pension and retirement schemes would cost anything up to £35m (allowing for £5m of entitlements from the Redundancy Payments Fund). Investment in new methods and machines would run into some £20m and the investment allied to loss of jobs would need to be made over the next four years.

Post-change savings are estimated at about £35m, covering all national and the London evenings.

The commission recommends that financial aid should come from the private sector, and nominates the FFI (Finance for Industry) because of its experience with industrial problems at first hand and its ability to monitor loans. The Government, however, is expected to play some role. Should any publisher be unable to meet FFI's terms and requirements, the Government might step in.

The commission also recommends interest relief of not more than 4 per cent for two years, to be paid by the Government to all houses.

By and large, the commission has been thoughtful in reaching its conclusions to protect newspapers and democracy from possible interference, controls and regular interference. The commission emphasizes that nothing is being asked that has not already been granted to other industries and points out frequently that this interim report was born of the concern that newspapers were facing last summer, an unprecedented financial crisis.

The suggestion for private sector help is wise in its contribution to preserving a free press as we know it—apart from Mr Foot's curious freedom—and is also politically sound. The Treasury is bawling down the hatches and informing the Government that this, that or the other ideology just cannot be afforded. To have attempted to impose the whole burden on government would have been to tempt denial, or a confusing compromise, of little practical use. The mooted solution looks at least possible, if not probable.

The report is excellent, well documented and researched and presented with relevant, clear tables in the way that Whitehall does best. The work done should serve the industry well in practical terms, the only real terms on which to save many ailing

titles, if not all of them, to be too many consumers.

The committee of the people who because they profess some and coo managements and a reality, and that committee will ensue the commission's tribute the detest of Mr. Duke House of Times Newspaper, who led on printing unions.

Mirror Group N resigned in disguise paper Publishers' joined the talks persuasion when dedication of the practical common leaders are now in the members' tied with respect and that is still far

The report hi leniency of produ high wages and sal range between lo the rising prices, achievements are a 20 many years of 1975, seem to be a Street—or at worst

The importance of Mr Vorster if Rhodesia's border war spreads



Rhodesian security forces: Superior weapons, mobility tactics and numbers.

Three major influences will shape events in Rhodesia in the next few months. The first is whether the Smith regime and the Nkomo-led ANC reach, or get perhaps very close to, agreement. The second is whether the Rhodesian army inflicts further punishing and well publicized defeats on the guerrilla fighters before Cuban or other reinforcements could join them. The third is Mr Vorster's moves behind the scenes. In my view Britain has only a very minor role for the time being.

The prospective danger to the white Rhodesians from the enforcement of sanctions by Mozambique can be shortly stated and have been by Mr Banda, the Foreign Minister of Zambia. This is that Rhodesian reversals in the field, and perhaps in international relations, would encourage the black population to prepare mentally and perhaps organizationally for a general revolt.

Once the six million Africans were convinced that the whites were going to lose, and fairly soon, nothing would stop them openly changing sides. Only the intellectuals are so far convinced. The dominance of the white minority is based on consent and cooperation, on the "hills, the plains, the rivers, the changes, their position becomes progressively unsustainable in the face of determined guerrilla fighting.

But it is not immediately likely. The Rhodesian forces have fully held their own in a fluctuating 1972 losses of 10 to one. They still have superior weapons, mobility tactics and numbers; the guerrillas have only the advantage of surprise. The Rhodesians have the edge of use of traditional tribal or other animosities to inhibit cooperation with guerrillas. All this the population sees, and has therefore remained uncommitted.

Africans are pragmatic and perspicacious in the extreme. On the night of UDI an elder said to me: "Mr Smith has won, I do not hear Mr Wilson's aeroplanes."

This would change if the security forces were to sustain appreciable losses in men and prestige. Such setbacks cannot come from the present guerrilla forces, whose effective strength probably does not exceed 4,000. There is no proof that any such larger forces are in the making. Heavy losses inhibit the growth of campaigning skills, perhaps of leadership. This position can therefore only change if Cubans or others enter the fight.

One of the favourite sports of Diary writers in recent years has been to chronicle Tony Benn's entry in *Who's Who*. As the former peer and Prime Ministerial hopeful has grown increasingly egotistical in his views, references to his extensive private education have been deleted at his request. Last year it said simply: "Education—still in progress."

So this week, when advance copies of the new issue (out next Thursday) were distributed to civil servants at Whitehall, they turned up to find the Benn page. There they found that references not only to his education but to almost everything else about him have gone. Last year's entry of 38 lines has been whittled down to just three.

Gone is all mention of his disclaimer of his hereditary title, his marriage and children, his war service, his Presidency of the Oxford Union. MPs who want to know whether he would make a suitable leader can no longer read about his record on the Select Committee on Procedure, 1958, or the H-bomb National Campaign, 1954.

There is no reference to his honorary degree or his publications (*The Regeneration of Britain*, *The New Politics*). Even his recreations (family and politics) have been rigorously excised.

At the publishers of *Who's Who* I was told that all subjects are sent a proof of last year's entry for amendment. Benn simply put a pen through everything except his jobs as an MP and a Minister, and his address.

Next year he might hope to get his three lines down to two. After all, "Prime Minister" takes up much less space than "Secretary of State for Energy".

Reports of advance formations of Cubans in Mozambique have been denied by Fredino ministers, but in any case drafts from the 12,000 in Angola would be needed and could not be cancelled. Those who would push them into action must, however, think carefully. The Cubans have got to win almost as quickly and decisively as they did against Uta. Otherwise the Rhodesians will acquire the prestige of letting the gas out of the Cuban balloon, and showing that Russian weapons and mercenaries are not all-powerful in Africa. Such a success would give the Rhodesians a long respite from restlessness on the domestic front. The Rhodesians say they are confident they can take Cuba on.

This is where Mr Vorster's influence becomes important. He is strong vis-a-vis Mozambique. If he indicates that an act of war as opposed to a "border fighting" against Rhodesia will mean reprisals against the Mozambique economy and aid for the Rhodesians, President Machel and his Russian friends would have only one higher

card to play: the escalation of the border war into a major war with the risk of international developments.

For they would then have to bring in such massive foreign reinforcements that the African liberation fighters would become a sideshow. Russia would be committing itself to liberate Rhodesia (and South Africa) for the good of the black man and without his help—indeed, precisely because he has shown incompetence. This would rescue the West from its present predicament of wanting to stop Russian expansion in Africa while being obligated to enforce sanctions against Rhodesia to force a "return to constitutional rule".

By limiting Mozambique's actions to economic sanctions Mr Vorster will be holding the ring for the Smith regime—for a little time longer.

But as the South Africans see it, beyond the short-run the Rhodesian position is hopeless. Every year the youngish black population rises by up to

200,000, compared with an increase of 4,000 (including immigrants) for the aging white population. Mr Smith's successful manoeuvres against all attempts to tighten the net under Rhodesia has filled the old man of the Front with confidence. But the net has now tightened. If Mr Vorster allowed Sir Seretse Khama to join UN sanctions, besieged Rhodesia would rely on a single railway link via Beit Bridge.

South Africa's interest is clear: a "moderate" African government (majority rule need not mean one-man-one-vote democracy) in alliance with the white Rhodesian administrative structure, which would on independence immediately reject the guerrillas' claim to be liberators, use the apparatus of the former white state to smash them if they persisted and assert its rights in the OAU.

But while Mr Smith and the Front may be facing the need to bring in Mr Nkomo and his Matabele supporters (for they think in tribal terms) as junior partners in government, it is still almost inconceivable that they are ready to become the junior partner in an Nkomo government (non-racial and "responsible" as it might be). That is the gap.

Yet nothing less, as the South Africans can see, would provide Mr Nkomo with the authority to assert that an adequate settlement had been reached assuming majority rule and thus bring to his support the four key African presidents (Kaunda, Seretse Khama, Machel and Nyerere), and relegate the Cubans from the status of revolutionary brothers-in-arms to that of non-African intruders.

As time gets shorter, as African expectations harden, the acceptable transition period gets shorter too, if a new government is not to be successfully branded as a sell-out. Mr Nkomo will hang on for a long time in hope of gaining the point, for he and his supporters have a grim picture otherwise.

Anyone who knows the white Rhodesians, their conditioning and traditions, knows how unlikely such a quick transition is, article on allon an interview w Smith, who has c the article c non the mission Times diarist, and Albert expr 'what I might c lower-middle cl days, with the vegetable pres premium for al that it might e thing for the dle as a hobby for man'. It is something pack so many single sentence, the missionary a description of spect lethargy missionaries call I do not even a description of Bc bac (what, then, the categorization 35p rent as a gre I can even B tante (lover of B I saw the other show the other lower middle cl middle class....

The Times Diary

Mr Benn wipes away his past

I like to see all shades of opinion represented, and was therefore pleased to read in the children's magazine *Look and Learn* of the formation of the London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Bless you

I could tell it was going to be a classy day as soon as I gave my name and affiliation to the man waiting outside the door. "The Times, eh?" he said. "Why should I know?"

"Oh, really," I replied. "Why is that?"

"Well, you can always tell the chaps from the *Daily Mirror*", he confided. "They wear pin-stripes and bowlers."

"What you're trying to say," I retorted, "is that I look rather scruffy." He back-pedalled but it was too late. Mind you, it was a perceptive remark. Although I was wearing my newest suit, it was a mere £35 grey mottled job from Marks & Spencer. (It was, however, accompanied by a more sumptuous blue and red check shirt from a sale at Simpson's of Piccadilly.)

The function was hosted by the Society of Snuff Grinders, Bleepers and Purrers, whose claim that snuff-taking straddles class barriers is to be taken with a pinch of something-or-other. It is sold mainly from high-class tobacconists in the West End.

Maxine Lipton, the elderly Labour MP for part of Bristol and an honorary member of

the society, confirmed my social diagnosis when I asked him whether snuff-taking was prevalent in his constituency. "I did once see an old man taking it in a warm place and then set free. Occasionally, though, the system goes fatally wrong. Birds are frightened away by grain and fly on to the road in a dazed state."

His own honorary membership was in recognition of his service in getting snuff omitted from the list of tobacco products which must have government health warnings on them. The purpose of the function was to install Patrick Allen, the actor, as another honorary member. He made a good (though probably not an original) joke about snuff purveyors "poking their business into other people's noses".

Stunning

The disused Surrey docks, for which Southwark Council is to announce ambitious plans next month, have recently assumed a new role as a bird sanctuary. According to Hilary Peters, 109 species have been listed since 1970 when the last ship sailed, including kingfishers, kestrels, skylarks, ringed plovers, goldfinches, black redstarts and red-legged partridges.

But, she continues, the visitors are endangered by poisons put down to get rid of sparrows and pigeons. Birds are dropping dead in the streets, she claims.

two of them on Red Rum. Everyone stood up and applauded Mrs Moore, aged 93, whose boy Patrick is keen on astronomy but will not do his hair.

The greeting card industry, which is forever grateful to establishing Mother's Day back in 1914, would like you to know that this year it falls on Sunday, March 28.

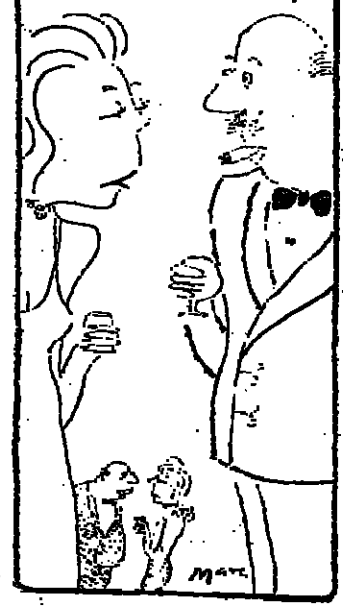
Dear Mum

The mothers of 35 moderately famous sons and daughters had a day out in London at the expense of the greeting card industry yesterday, to help celebrate an expected sale of 35 million Mother's Day cards this year, compared with a mere 19 million for Father's Day. They enjoyed a three-course lunch at a riverside hotel.

There was Mrs Bonington, whose son recently went up to Oxford, Mrs Clemence whose little boy Ray keeps goal for Liverpool, Mrs Lawrence whose daughter Marie changed her name to Lulu, and Mrs Rantzen, who is the sporting image of little Esther. But the best known mother on the invitation list telephoned at the last minute to say she had declined for the third year running: "family pressures" was the excuse proffered by Mrs Ursula Thorpe.

My reporter sat next to Mrs Fletcher from Bishop Auckland, who proudly reminded him that her eldest boy Brian had won the Grand National three times,

if you really want Ray to win what about not announcing your support?



two of them on Red Rum. Everyone stood up and applauded Mrs Moore, aged 93, whose boy Patrick is keen on astronomy but will not do his hair.

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Innuendo

The BBC are taking revenge for my criticisms of some of their programmes by making snide insinuations against me in their organ, *Radio Times*, in the latest issue there is an

article on allon an interview w Smith, who has c the article c non the mission Times diarist, and Albert expr 'what I might c lower-middle cl days, with the vegetable pres premium for al that it might e thing for the dle as a hobby for man'. It is something pack so many single sentence, the missionary a description of spect lethargy missionaries call I do not even a description of Bc bac (what, then, the categorization 35p rent as a gre I can even B tante (lover of B I saw the other show the other lower middle cl middle class....

Just people

The Greater London Council for Local Aid voices have been enthusiastically brought to bring a plowed designation with the Sex Discrimination Act. As a result, women to cowardly, night soil attend pressman to shoe a tive, and row a to town hall security On the other hand, is to remain chanter because, though henceforward h rest.



ne of the conditions for a free and independent press is that it should be commercially viable for a period of years. Most newspapers, like other organisations, should be able to take a few bad years in their stride, but a state of chronic and mounting deficit is quite another matter. Yet the interim report of the Royal Commission on the press shows with a wealth of evidence that that is the condition of many national papers in Britain today. Only three dailies of three Sundays made a profit in 1974; only four dailies and one Sunday paper in 1975. This state of affairs is likely to be, in the words of the report, "a third successive year of loss for a number of titles". The burden of debt is mounting up and there is no prospect of demand from either readers or advertisers being such as to offer the hope of salvation through higher revenue in time to save a number of publications. The only hope lies in cutting costs. But one of the largest elements of costs in newspaper publishing is the paper itself, determined by world market conditions beyond the control of any publisher, and by the level of the pound. Savings on the necessary scale can be obtained there only by cutting production costs and the development of new technology presents a last chance for some papers and the opportunity for all of getting on

to a more secure commercial foundation than for a great many years. The savings to be achieved by this new technology will be largely in the composing room, so that it will be of particular benefit to those papers for whom composing costs are a relatively great proportion of the total—in other words, those with a large amount of text, but a comparatively small circulation. There are other areas of production, however, where savings can be obtained by lower manning levels.

Agreement has been reached in principle between the publishers and unions within the industry of introducing new technology and achieving more realistic manning levels. But the report calculates that it would cost up to £55 million to implement this agreement, partly to pay for the new technology and partly to compensate those who became redundant. Adequate compensation is needed both on social grounds and because there could otherwise be no agreement on such schemes at all. In the long run the savings would be considerable, but the immediate cost is more than some papers could bear.

The commission propose that so far as possible such operations should be financed by the private sector through Finance for Industry, and where this is not possible the Government should

offer loans. As proposed, should amount of in the Government suggestion is governmental papers it is right this is compatible of the p would not be in regular support Treasury's of there should a tion of prefer continuing has grant across the

But what is temporary and to enable the which might of difficulty in findi make once-for-a major nature require any n change of offic entirely in line ance given to under the Ind proposed financ necessary to s that every effort to pay adequa to their reducat these circumstances Commission's serve further st the newspaper will want to ke on the potentia type of assista vigour of press

for thirty years in power the Italian Christian Democrat Party (DC), whose congress opens today, is in a state of profound crisis. The first major blow to its self-confidence came May 1974, when it failed spectacularly to obtain the repeal of a divorce law. The second was a result of the regional elections last June, in which the Communist increased their share of the vote by 51 per cent and came within 2 per cent of overtaking the DC as the largest party.

The DC leaders appear exhausted by their long years of power, credited but disappointed, isolated, blinded to the need for renewal by vanity and by internal dissensions. They are identified with status quo which to many Italians has become intolerable. And many people take it for granted that the Communist advance will continue: that in June Rome itself will fall to a Communist mayor, and that by the next general election (due in May next year) the Communists will indeed be the largest party. Their claim to inclusion in the Government would then, it is supposed, become irresistible and the DC would have either to go into opposition or accept the "historic compromise" proposed by Senator Berlinguer, becoming a chastened and respectful junior partner in a Communist-led coalition. In all probability it would split.

The Italian Communists are presently the lions of the hour. In the press at home and abroad they are seen with new respect. The Government itself tends to become more and more to consulting them informally in order to procure a smooth passage for its legislation. The Socialist Party withdraws its support from the Government, demands a formal recognition of the Communist contribution, and proclaims a bipolar front with the Communists its long-term aim. Senator Berlinguer's protestations of democratic intent and independence from Moscow are hailed as the dawn of a new "Eurocommunism", even though he said the same things almost word for word at the Moscow conference of European communist parties long ago as 1969.

Only the Americans seem unimpressed and unresigned. Whether some of the communist parties of Western Europe are in fact independent of Moscow cannot be determined.

Dr Kissinger in Boston last week, "when their electoral self-interest so overwhelmingly overrides with their claims." The Americans are not reassured by

Senator Berlinguer's promise that Italy will remain in Nato. Rather they wonder how they could explain to the American public the purpose of maintaining a supposedly anti-communist alliance with an Italy whose government was led or dominated by a Communist and Dubcek-style Italy might actually be in need of protection against Soviet aggression than a straightforwardly capitalist one—but would one have invited Mr Dubcek to sit in on Nato's nuclear planning committee?

Whether the Communists in government would be good or bad for Italy, or even make little difference, no one can be sure. That their presence would pose acute problems for Nato, and also for the European Community, is quite certain. Those are problems which Nato and the Community will have to cope with if the Italian voters decide—as is their uncontested right—that the communist experiment is the only hope of a solution to their own domestic problems. But meanwhile we are entitled to hope against hope that the Christian Democrats, even at the eleventh hour, can yet offer a credible alternative.

That alternative can hardly be the "return to the traditional virtues of Christian Democracy" which Senator Fanfani offered to the electorate with such disastrous results last year. The ingredients of that recipe have been analysed by a recent member of the party as "mainly visceral anti-communism, with a little power, a little Church and a dash of law-and-order". The Italian Communist of today can no longer plausibly be portrayed as a man with a knife between his teeth, and the electorate in Italy—as in other Catholic countries—is increasingly unwilling to confuse religious and political loyalties, while the Church itself is increasingly unwilling to be identified with any one political party.

Senator Fanfani has been in eclipse since his unceremonious deposition from the secretary-generalship last July. His candidate for the succession, Signor Forlani, secured a good result for the party in the 1972 elections with a tough campaign against both Communist and Socialists. But at that time the need was to fend off the threat from the neo-fascist MSI. The same recipe today would hardly halt the swing to the left.

It seems that the majority of the party realizes this, and will throw its weight behind the acting secretary-general, Signor Zaccagnini, who since his

election as a senator has shown reforming zeal. He may even direct Zaccagnini to leave the decision on national council statutes requiring given groups to abolish the "currents" of largely income-earners outside, have most accurately put.

These and reforms, with the some of the traditional who have done the Italian government people can credit lend some credibility of reform in the which otherwise a weary smile.

The key question of majority which elections, must present minor Democrat govern to the "centre" 1972-3 (Christian Liberals, Social Republicans) envisaged its new answer, then non-existent parliament. The crats are in advanced stage than the Christian the Republicans count, and the conservative to partners in pledged to reform.

The only communist majority of Christian Socialists combined without the support of the Socialists and Social of course was the whose obituary nounced many times last few months recently by the itself at its congress. Yet Signor Socialist leader, in his report to the to rule out an alliance unconditional the need for policies more than and recognizing take account of in which the problem ment will be Christian Democrats found the punishment from the next election largest party, the major condition Socialist Party was account. It is that alliance that Democrats must

om Mr Norman Hidden
s. Surely my old friend Laurence
utrell is mistaken when he says
ers. March 8, perhaps by the
p of the pen, that the National
y Secretariat "arranges" a
second poetry readings and events
ach year. I understand that the
ction of the National Poetry
retariat is to make a grant
wards the cost of poets' fees for
rdispatching in readings or other
roups arranged by local poetry
roups in various parts of the
untry. That Mr Cotterell would
ze with me that it would be a
ad day if a single organization took
e place, or if it were thought it
ould take the place, of the many
roups, indeed hundreds, of
xposed "poetry groups which
arrange" poetry readings and
ther such events.
ours faithfully,
NORMAN HIDDEN,
Culham Court,
Canville Road, N.Y.

rom Mr John R. Grierson
ir, Sir Bernard Walter-Cohen

that galleys headlong, into the trap which lies in wait for anyone whose attitudes to broadcasting were formed in the early 1930s and have feathered extremely well.

No one is obliged to listen to the radio or to watch television. It remains a matter of choice. The picture Sir Bernard paints is one of the British population chained to their radio or television receivers, which have been turned on and tuned in by some Machiavellian big brother. Nothing could be further from the truth and if the listening and viewing public indicate boredom with any programme, Sir Bernard may rest assured that, not only in Britain, will programmes be kept alive against the public will. I think it might also be worth regarding Sir Bernard that the Government by means of the broadcast media just might persuade our members of Parliament to improve their standards of performance. The introduction of live broadcasting will not harm the image of Parliament and its members, but enhance them both.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRIERSON,
16 Markham Square, SW3.
March 15.

From Mr. H. G. Edwards
Sir, In his letter on teachers' retirement
Sunt (March 9), Mr MacKenzie
misses an important point. Teachers
who have spent years in "front
line" of the classroom and have
given devoted service to their
schools can, very understandably,
run out of liveliness in their fifties.
Because of the intense pressures
of the job, this may apply doubly so
to headmasters. There are two
remedies needed, the first simple,
the second complex :

1. Under present regulations,
members of the teaching profession
cannot draw their pension until
they reach the age of 60. If this
were reduced to 55 for retirement
on a voluntary basis, it would be a
great help.
2. The profession as a whole—and
I include all the ancillary services
such as training colleges and admini-
stration—has no coherent structure.
Transfer at age 50 or so into other
branches of the education service
is a difficult task indeed, because the
ancillary branches tend to become
closed shops.

Yours faithfully,
H. G. EDWARDS,
9 Upper Beekley Place, Clifton,
Bristol.

From Dr Christoph Bertram

Sir, In his article "The West must dance to its own tune" it still has a chance. (*The Times*, 15.12.15, 1976) Lord Chalfont rightly draws attention to the massive military forces that the Soviet Union maintains, but then makes a number of judgments about the existing military balance in Europe which require additional discussion.

The continuing build-up of Soviet military capabilities should certainly be a matter of increasing concern to West European governments in particular. But there is very real reason to doubt the validity of an argument which claims that the present situation is militarily hopeless for Nato, particularly since none of Lord Chalfont's proposed remedies—less dependence on American nuclear weapons, more political integration in Western Europe, concern over the changing balance of power in Africa and the Far East—seem likely to make it less so.

In fact the military situation in present-day Europe is far from hopeless one that is described. True, successful surprise attack by the Warsaw Pact would by definition find the defence unprepared. But the conventional Nato defence at the moment is of a strength that would make a surprise attack by the Warsaw Pact very unlikely. It would have to rely only on the ready forces in East Germany, a major risk, and one which the Soviet Union, to judge by its traditional preference for over-insurance, would not take. And if it would assume that the Soviet Union felt quite certain that the West would not use nuclear weapons.

This certainty is simply not attainable. The doubts expressed in the article are as old as the Western world, but they are not new. Western governments can be sure that the American President will release nuclear weapons in time, so no Soviet government can be sure that

From Mr Keith Kyle

Sir, In February, 1967, I visited British forces in Germany on behalf of the BBC to interview and interview his commander, General Sir John Hackett, who was also Nato commander of Northern Army Group. In the course of the interview General Hackett stated publicly that should the Warsaw Pact attack using conventional weapons he would lose tactical control of the battle within 48 hours, unless authority had by then been received for him to use tactical nuclear weapons. He asked him whether or not he was confident that he would be given permission to use tactical nukes within 48 hours. He replied: "No, far from it. It is very difficult to suppose that there would be a 48-hour agreement between governments."

Before my tour began I received a Nato briefing. This included the following points: (i) for political purposes, the Germans insist on a forward strategy which does not make much sense militarily; (ii) the effect of this is that the Russians would have been able to occupy allied defence positions before they could be reinforced from their peace stations; (iii) the 20,000 Soviet agents operating in West Germany.

Any reader of *The Times* of March 15 will find these conclusions very familiar since they almost coincide with the report by a Nato officer which has now been made public. The main difference is that there are thought to be 4,000 fewer Soviet agents.

It is not certain that your scoop is nine years old. But a more likely interpretation is that, for all the talk of new weapons systems and new strategic doctrine, the situation is in exactly the same today as it was a decade ago.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH KYLE.
25 Opplands Road, NW3.

From Miss Mary Southern
Sir, Politicians are accustomed to criticism and abuse—much of it grossly unfair and based on ignorance. At this moment of Mr Wilson's resignation it might be as well for the British people to realize how fortunate they have been in recent years in the quality of their Prime Ministers.

The characteristic generosity of Mr Wilson's tribute to Mr Wilson reminds us of the courtesy that still exists between party leaders, in contrast to the impression given by the media. In these testing times a more generous public attitude to all our politicians might be nationally beneficial.

Mr Wilson has served this country well. May he (and his admirable wife) enjoy many years of more peaceful activity away from Downing Street; and may his successor receive good will and loyalty in taking on this burden of responsibility. Yours sincerely,
MARY SOUTHERN,
Miramar Hotel,
Beltinge,
Hertne Bay,
Kent.

I suggest that historians will conclude that Mr Wilson was the consummate operator but no more. It would be entirely appropriate that he should leave the stage only a few days after his Government's departure on its economic policy and following effective devaluation of the pound by yet another 5 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. CRICHTON-MILLER,
Meadow Way,
Rotherfield Greys,
Henley-on-Thames.
March 17.

From Mr P. R. Davies
Sir, The Prime Minister has resigned the position of a sterling crisis. What respect can he, his government or his party now expect from the beleaguered electorate? Yours faithfully,
PETER R. DAVIES,
16 Coleman Street, EC2,
March 16.

Recovery by Germany
From Mr Corregli Bernett

Sir, The natural decacy of the *British* is showing through in the eulogies in print and television over Mr Wilson's performance as Prime Minister. Without wishing to alter an endearing characteristic of the *British* or to deny Mr Wilson a long and happy retirement, I think that which has been ignored and overlooked during the Wilson era should be clearly recognized.

Firstly, the last fifteen years have seen the greatest decline, moral as well as economic, ever experienced by this country in modern times. Whereas at the start of the war, some quite outside the control of those who govern us, any comparison in our standing compared with other countries surely points to a major failure by our politicians. As Prime Minister for over half that period, Harold Wilson's name should bear the responsibility of the blame.

Secondly, the electorate in the UK now view politicians of all parties not only with suspicion, which is healthy, but with contempt, which is not. The veracity and integrity of all our politicians is now in doubt and Mr Wilson's whole manner of life has combined with his frequent changes of direction on the Common Market and other major issues have been significantly responsible.

Butured the strength of the Deutchmark and the weakness of the pound to the supposed destruction of the German industry during the Second World War and its re-equipment thanks to American loans.

Although this is one of the most widespread and persistent of British excuses for British failure, it has very little factual foundation. Only some 15 to 20 per cent of German industrial capacity was damaged beyond repair in the war, while West Germany received only some two-thirds the amount of Marshall Aid received by Great Britain: 17 thousand million dollars to 2.7 thousand million. Indeed in the five years after the war Britain received in direct grants or loans from America, Canada, South Africa and the International Monetary Fund a total of no less than 8 thousand million dollars.

Now we chose to spend this money is another matter, and one which Mr Wilson, as an economist, paid no care to investigate, now he has more time to himself.

Yours faithfully,
CORRELLI BARNETT,
Cambridge House,
East Carleton,
Norwich.
March 16.

From Mr John Stewart Collis
Sir, Who cares about "The British
Library"? No one, really, except
Learned Societies and organizations,
—especially as it does not exist. A
great many people care a great deal
about the British Museum Reading
Room, the most typical of the
our day that the modern chairman
of a board should call it "the Great
Russell Street site". Another chair-
man with some barmy idea of shifting
the pictures elsewhere might
just as well refer to the National
Gallery as "the Charing Cross Road
site".

The British Museum Reading
Room is as much part of London
as the National Gallery. It is the
greatest library in the world—and
used by all nations. That circle
under Panizzi's dome is a mighty

From the Rev Colin J. Sedgwick

Sir, As a Baptist minister I have found much of the recent correspondence on "clergy poverty" rather sorry reading. Baptists are, generally speaking, not self-supporting, and thus it may be that the free church voice has something to contribute to the discussion. I should like to make two points.

First: there is no good reason, theologically or otherwise, why the Baptist minister should be any worse off than the average member of his congregation. Certainly, financial sacrifice is part of Christian service, but Christians are called to give, not to receive. Any such sacrifice, therefore, should be equally shared among the members of the congregation.

Second: the whole problem of finance has been solved by overnight Christian people entering into membership of a

From Mrs C. M. Garnett
Sir, I wonder if many people have been noticing the gradual disappearance of our small primary schools in rural areas? Little Strickland School, in Cumbria, is an example of this. Because it has only one teacher and 12 pupils (though this number would be much higher if it were to take in the children in the future years) it is inevitable that it will be closed under section 13 of the Education Act of 1944. But it has a record of high academic standards, it is strongly supported locally, and is the focal point of village life. It is (naturally, and not artificially!) open plan, unstaffed, and has a small hall where the children come from widely different economic and social backgrounds (which is typical of the new village communities).

nomonic (no longer true, due to the cost of petrol) and therefore "bussing" the children) and that "big is beautiful" (now realized to be a myth).

Of course a "one-teacher" school is also suspect, but in a small community much less escapes notice than in a large school, and in many cases, such as this one, it is a positive advantage in terms of the security and development of these pupils.

These village schools are, I think, vital and valuable part of our society, and may become even more so in the future, if they are allowed to remain.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA GARNETT,
the Folly,
Hilfield,
Oxford.

March 16.

focus. It is steeped for over a hundred years in memories of the great who have used it—whether by Bernard Shaw in his days of penury or by the Marx and Leninists and Trotsky who made it quite a home from home as they planned to blow up homes or by the ones who never turned away. It is the truest monument on the surface of the earth to an all-embracing intellect. It is a monument to the human mind, a monument with a marvellous sweep from one place to another place. You can destroy it. It is inconceivable that any civilised human being would do so. But it is all in the day's work for modern chairmen of boards.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEWART COLLIS.

Park House,
Abinger Common,
Dorking, Surrey.

themselves to some such system as tithing in the Old Testament times. The Lord gave a tenth of their wealth to the service of God. Why should the present day people of God be satisfied with anything less? It is one of the responsibilities of the minister to teach his people in the terms that if they are not willing to give substantially and realistically to God's work, then they had better start asking themselves if they are really Christians at all.

Nothing is an accepted custom in some churches. In such circles it is invariably the case that neither the church nor individual Christians "lack any good thing".

Yours sincerely,
COLIN SEDGWICK,
Scunthorpe Baptist Church,
Scunthorpe Road,
Scunthorpe,
Lincolnshire.
March 11.

From Mr Alan Reid
Sir, If provincial integrity really is a handicap to becoming President of the European Commission (Roger Berthoud writing of Mr George Thomson, March 12), the sooner the Commission is eclipsed by a European Parliament directly elected by the millions of provincials of integrity throughout the Community, the better.
Yours faithfully,
ALAN REID
61 Ed de la Péruasse,
Luxembourg.

From The Revd R. W. D. Dewing
Sir, A certain firm which had my
name on its mailing list as "The
Rev Dewing", sent me a "person-
alized" circular letter which com-
menced "Dear The Dewing" and
continued in the same fashion:
"You see The Dewing . . .", and
"The advantages to you The Dewing
are . . ."

When I wrote and expressed my
surprise and amusement at this
strange form of address, I was told
that the fault lay with the computer,
which was unable to distinguish
between clerical and other gentle-
men. Programmed to omit initials,
it had been entered on the mailing
list as Mr R. W. Dewing, my
dear Mr Dewing, have commenced
that Rev was initials, it obeyed
its instructions and produced "The
Dewing."

I remain, yours faithfully,
R. W. D. DEWING,
Bisnet Vicarage, Alton,
Hampshire.

March 16.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 17: Her Excellency the Hon Anne Armstrong was received in audience by the Queen this morning and presented the Letters of Recall of her predecessor and her own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the United States of America to the Court of St James's.

Her Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr. John H. Spies (Minister), Mr. William K. Miller (Minister), Mr. Michael J. Conlin (Counsellor for Administrative Affairs), Mr. William Worsner (Counsellor for Political Affairs), Mr. John Holmes (Counsellor for Economic Affairs) and Rear-Admiral James C. Longino, Jr. (USN (Defence Attaché)).

Mr. John Armstrong had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mr. Michael Puller (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty, was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

General Sir John Mogg had the honour of being received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

Her Majesty held a Council at 12.40 o'clock this afternoon.

There were also present the Right Hon Edward Short, MP (Lord Governor, Lord of the Treasury), the Right Hon Harold Lever, MP (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), the Right Hon William Rodgers, MP (Minister of State, Ministry of Defence).

Mr. Neville Lelch was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

At the Council The Queen presided. The List of High Sheriffs for England and Wales.

The Right Hon Edward Short, MP, had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

After the Council the Right Hon Harold Lever, MP, had an audience of The Queen when Her Majesty presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor, Mr. John Mogg, and the Letters of Credence of Mr. John Mogg.

His Royal Highness was received upon arrival at Royal Air Force Station, Cranwell, Lincolnshire, by the Commander-in-Chief, Royal Air Force, Sir John Jellicoe, and the Commander of the Royal Air Force, Sir John Jellicoe.

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Fortcoming marriages

Mr M. G. Athorn and Miss C. F. Davies. The engagement is announced between Michael George, only son of Mr and Mrs F. Athorn, of Kew, Surrey, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. A. L. Davies, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr W. Reselline and Miss J. S. A. Wilson. The engagement is announced between Frederick, son of Mr and Mrs W. Reselline, of London, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. S. A. Wilson, of Moreton, Warwickshire.

M. F. L. M. Lechère and Mrs E. F. Lecky. The engagement is announced between Frédéric, son of M and Mme C. Lechère, of Paris, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. F. Lecky, of Mont Pelier, Jersey.

Mr M. P. Sayers and Mrs M. Brougham. The marriage took place on March 12 between Mr Michael Patrick Sayers and Mrs Mousie Brougham.

Memorial meeting

Mr T. Harrison, MP for Tottenham, was held yesterday at the Royal Society of Arts, Professor Asa Briggs was in the chair.

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"Fun Fair at Daisy Nook", by L. S. Lowry, which fetched £13,000 at Sotheby's yesterday.

L. S. Lowry fairground painting fetches £13,000 in first sale since artist's death

Sotheby's sale of modern British drawings, paintings and sculpture yesterday realised £171,349, with prices higher than at this time last year.

The highest price among those paintings was £13,000 (estimate £7,000 to £10,000) paid by Reid and Leffer, of London, for "Fun Fair at Daisy Nook" painted in 1957.

A large abstract by Carl Richards, "Jardins sous la Pluie", fetched £4,000.

The first part of the two-week sale at Sotheby's, 100, New Bond Street, London, started on Tuesday.

At Christie's some unexpectedly high prices were paid by Continental buyers in a routine sale of printed books. The sale totalled

£37,198, with 5 per cent unsold.

Two volumes of the *Œuvres complètes* of Saint-Nicolas, by Jean de la Fontaine, sold for £1,700 to Breda, of London.

A copy of the *National Geographic* magazine, No. 1, 1901, sold for £1,100 to Breda, of London.

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OBITUARY

SGR LUCHINO VISCONTI

Eminent film and theatre director

Sgr Luchino Visconti, one of the very few directors to achieve outstanding eminence in both the theatre and the cinema, died yesterday at the age of 69.

He was born in Milan on November 2, 1906, of an aristocratic family. Following the family tradition, he had a solid classical education as a preparation for a life devoted primarily to the breeding and training of horses, but though he did in fact share the family interest in horses, he was also drawn to the arts, studying the cello and becoming a thoroughly proficient player. It was not long before he developed, which first manifested itself in a period of scene-painting.

From this somewhat dilettante approach to the theatre, it was a short step to the cinema. Deciding that the best method of entry was by serving an apprenticeship to an established director, he went to France and became Jean Renoir's assistant on *Les Bas-Fonds* (1936) and *Une Part de Campagne*. In 1939 he returned to Italy, still with Renoir, to assist in the making of the opera film *Tosca*, and continued to work on it after Renoir was compelled to leave for France. When this film was completed he began work in his first independent film, *Ossessione*, a free adaptation of *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, moved to America. This was a first film, an amazing accomplishment, and with its savage realism and consistent use of natural locations it marked a revolutionary new element in Italian production.

Meanwhile in the cinema he had produced only two minor works, *Belles-sœurs* and *Il Dottor*, both carefully designed as showcases for the talents of an old friend, Anna Magnani, but in 1941 he undertook a major work, *Senso*, based on a story of Venice under Austrian rule by Italo Calvino. The result was his greatest film, combining convincingly in one place the whole range of his interests: the social conscience of his early realist style, the psychological penetration of his Chekhov productions, and the pictorial splendour and romantic sweep of his more operatic stage work. Unfortunately, the film ran into difficulties with the censors and was cut before showing, but even so it remains one of the Italian cinema's most remarkable works. The attraction towards opera proper evident in the opening sequences of *Senso* found another outlet the same year in his first operatic production, *La Vestale*, which was followed by others even more successful, among them *La Traviata* at the Scala (1955) and his famous staging of *Don Carlos* at Covent Garden, for which he designed his own sets and costumes. A further excursion into films, *La Notte Bianca*, a muted and tasteful adaptation of Dostoevsky, was by comparison something of a disappointment.

At the same time he returned to the cinema, after a long absence, to direct *La Terra Trema*, the first



part of an intended trilogy which never materialized. He returned to the theatre for the next three years.

Following the success of *La Terra Trema*, he staged a memorable production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, but more characteristic of his work at this time were his subtle and poetic production of *Troilus and Cressida* in the Boboli Gardens at Florence and his artificial, bravura, wild, theatrical production of *Alfieri's Oresteia* with Vittorio Gassman. Then, with his experience widened and deepened by these excursions into artifice, he returned to realism, in a more psychological, less naturalistic sense, in his productions of *Death of a Salesman* and particularly *The Three Sisters* (which many good judges regarded as the finest of all his stage productions) and *Uncle Vanya*.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

For Saving
Investing and
House-Purchase

HALIFAX
BUILDING SOCIETY

Germany spends heavily to hold narrow margins within margins

Peter Norman
March 17

Despite denials from the German government that there is any revaluation of the German mark, the Federal Reserve Bank has intervened heavily in foreign exchange markets today to prevent the mark being out of the top of the joint float.

The Federal Reserve Bank has intervened heavily in foreign exchange markets today to prevent the mark being out of the top of the joint float.

and the Norwegian crown, which on Monday and Tuesday had stayed relatively strong against the German currency.

The dollar sank at one point to DM2.5350 in late trading against a rate of DM2.5568 at today's official fixing and DM2.5715 at noon yesterday. The Federal Bank bought \$18.35m at today's fixing.

Denials from the Bonn government and the Federal Bank in Frankfurt that a revaluation of the German currency is being considered have had no apparent effect on the foreign exchange market.

Throughout today the Belgian franc and the Danish crown were at their lower intervention points against the mark, with the Federal Bank intervening to buy 61m Belgian francs and 3.1m Danish crowns at the fixing.

Bank rates raised: Belgium and Denmark raised their bank rates by 1 per cent.

The Belgian National Bank said it was raising Bank rate to 7 per cent from 6 per cent, effective March 18. The rate was last changed on August 21, 1975, when it was reduced to 6 per cent from 6.5 per cent.

The Danish Central Bank raised its Bank rate to 8.4 per cent from 7.4 per cent.

African gold swap boost reserves

Nicholas Ashford
Nairobi, March 17

South Africa has entered a swap agreement with one of its foreign reserves. Mr. De Jongh, governor of the Reserve Bank, announced today.

As a result of the deal the bank's total gold and foreign currency reserves have been increased by about £200m (a rand is £0.007).

This is the first time the country's reserves have exceeded the £100m mark since November 1973.

analysts believe the swap arrangements were concluded at a price of 96 rand (\$110) an ounce. This is still some \$30 below the current free market price.

The effect of the deal is shown in the country's latest reserve figures. These indicate that gold holdings declined by about \$86m while the foreign reserves increased by \$286m during the week ended March 12.

The move was necessitated by South Africa's growing balance of payments problems and particularly the yawning deficit on current account. The payment of interest on foreign loans remains more or less in balance only because of an exceptionally high level of short-term capital inflows last year.

If these loans, which still have to be repaid, were deducted from the figure for South Africa's gold and foreign exchange reserves before the present deal was arranged, they would be inadequate to cover the cost of six weeks' imports. This is regarded as the minimum level to which reserves can be allowed to drop.

Equities reflect uncertainty over political succession

Share prices had another unsteady day in the wake of Mr. Wilson's resignation decision in the ill-fated market, subdued, while equities, though opened fairly confident, quickly showed signs of nervousness.

One point the FT ordinary index was down by 5.5 points at 397.2. However, once again a combination of confidence and technical factors pushed prices towards the end of trading the index ended with a net rise of 2.8 on the day at 397.2.

In the background of Britain's market has been the particularly anxious atmosphere of a number of

recent rights issues.

Indications last night, however, were that the underwriters were unlikely to be called on to take up any of the £20m Turner & Newall rights issue. Brokers to the issue were busy yesterday placing the two million shares believed not to have been subscribed.

More important, perhaps, is the fate of the Lloyds Bank £74m rights issue. Yesterday was the final day for applications, and rumours during late trading that the initial count was encouraging helped the share price to recover part of an earlier fall to the 210p issue price.

KLEEMAN INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS

Year to 31st December	1975	1974
Turnover	£600	£600
Exports	6,966	5,657
Profit before tax	3,704	3,009
Less loan stock interest	2,010	1,393
	46	80

- * Progress maintained throughout 1975. Each company had the busiest time in its history.
- * Further substantial increase in turnover and profits.
- * Maximum permitted dividend of 4.157p covered 5.7 times.
- * Liquid position never stronger.

Derrick Kleeman - Chairman

Copies of the Annual Report and Chairman's Review are obtainable from the Secretary at 34 Gresham Place, London SW1X 8DL.

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SEC halts dealings in Maritime Fruit

By Peter Hill and
Christopher Wilkins

Trading in shares and debentures of Maritime Fruit Carriers in the American over-the-counter market were suspended yesterday by the Securities and Exchange Commission after a request from the financially troubled shipping company.

The key to the situation lies in the protracted talks between MFC and its bankers over the renegotiation of the Israeli-American company's debt. At the last meeting a week ago MFC asked the banks to agree to accept a moratorium on loan repayments for a period thought to be about six months.

The banks are individually considering MFC's proposal and are due to meet company executives again in about a week's time. By then they are expected to have decided whether to approve the moratorium.

Until the outcome of the bank's deliberations it is clear that MFC's future is highly uncertain and this uncertainty is believed to be an important factor behind the company's request for the SEC to suspend trading in its shares.

The suspension also applies to one of the company's many subsidiaries, Universal Gas and Oil, a Panamanian company based in Bermuda. According to the SEC, the company was applying until March 26. The request had been made because of a lack of public information about the financial condition and operation of the company.

MFC is in default on a \$12m of bank debt and a further \$7.5m of supply and service debt. The company, through its many subsidiaries, is a major customer of the British shipbuilding industry, and already nine options out of 13 total by 13 British shipbuilders through a joint company it operated with MFC, have been cancelled.

Earlier this year, when the full extent of the crisis at MFC began to unfold, there were top management changes and the company decided to move its American operations from New York to London.

Mr. H. Struve Hensel, the new chairman, said yesterday that the new management had so far been able to put together an accurate picture of the company's finances. Final results of its affairs for last year are not expected to be published for another 45 to 60 days.

"Due to the limited time since the new management assumed leadership of the company and the rapid change in state of its financial affairs, an accurate picture of the company's finances cannot be determined until an audit, now in progress, is completed," he said.

The SEC is keeping a close eye on developments, and the British Government is also being informed of progress in view of the impact any further cancellations could have on employment.

Yesterday Mr. Cliff Baylis, director of the Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association, said that the cancellations so far amounted to 257,150 component tons, or 10.5 per cent of the total United Kingdom industry order book.

Ferries gains Felixstowe voting control

By Our Financial Staff

European Ferries has won voting control of Felixstowe Dock and Railway. But it failed yesterday in an attempt to kill the proposed British Transport Docks Board's earlier offer for the port.

European Ferries has received acceptance from Felixstowe's shareholders, with its existing holdings representing 81.2 per cent of the port's ordinary stock.

Its offer, which is at present worth 165p a share to holders of the Felixstowe stock, will be put to a vote by the shareholders at a meeting on April 2. Dealings in the new European Ferries shares created by the bid will start on March 19.

Felixstowe's stockholders are to be paid an additional 15p cash per share if the parliamentary Bill promoted by the docks board to enable it to carry out its 150p a share cash offer for Felixstowe—which was agreed by the port's shareholders last November and which still has the recommendation of Felixstowe's board of directors—is withdrawn or defeated.

A parliamentary committee called to rule upon objections to the docks board's Bill yesterday rejected European Ferries' call to have the Bill withdrawn pending a further vote by Felixstowe's shareholders.

Teheran reports uranium finds

Teheran, March 17—Iran's atomic energy centre has revealed the discovery of rich uranium deposits in the country's northern and western regions.

The deposits were discovered in Shahrud, Damghan and Semnan, some 250 miles north-east of Teheran, as well as in provinces of Sistan and Baluchistan in the east and south-east.

Europe 'regrets' US plan for steel

From Michael Harnsey
Brussels, March 17

Trade relations between the European Community and the United States came under further strain today with the announcement from Washington that President Ford intends to take measures to protect America's specialty steel industry against competition from imports.

Under the President's decision "with profound regret" the European Commission said that "such measures are without any justification as far as Community exports to the United States are concerned".

The Commission would immediately review with the Council (of Ministers) all aspects of what is now a new situation.

President Ford has instructed Mr. Frederick Dent, his roving ambassador on trade matters, to negotiate orderly marketing agreements with America's main suppliers of specialty steel with the aim of limiting imports over a three-year period.

If these negotiations fail, the President will unilaterally proclaim import quotas for three years to take effect no later than June 14, 1976. These quotas would be set at overall levels comparable to those recommended by the United States International Trade Commission (USITC).

After investigation of complaints submitted in July of last year by the United Steel Workers of America and the Tool and Stainless Steel

Industry Committee, the USITC decided last month that the American specialty steel industry was suffering serious damage from increased imports.

It found that during most of last year 25 per cent or more of the industry's workforce were laid off and less than half of its productive capacity utilized, causing a steep drop in profits. Imports rose slightly in tonnage terms and sharply increased their share of the American market.

In 1974, the last year for which complete figures are available, the EEC accounted for 19 per cent of American tool steel, and 21 per cent of stainless steel imports. The total value of imports of EEC specialty steels was \$39m (£20m).

The European Commission accepts that there was a rise in America's total imports in 1975, but argues that this was mainly due to a sharp jump in supplies from Japan. It also believes that this increase should be set against a downward trend in specialty steel imports in recent years.

The main concern in Brussels is that the grant of protection to American producers could encourage other industries to seek assistance. The USITC has already ruled that the shoe industry has been damaged by increased imports and has called for protective action.

Before the trade commission now are requests for relief from exports of mushrooms, blue pigments, shrimp, round stainless steel wire, and honey.

Simon plea for tax relief on shares

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 17

Mr. William Simon, the American Secretary of the Treasury, called today for important tax reforms to stimulate private investment in the stock markets.

He elaborated on the general tax reform plans announced by President Ford earlier this year, and proposed that taxpayers should be allowed to deduct from income taxes up to \$1,500 (about 13 per cent of the investment) in common stocks.

Mr. Simon said at a hearing of the Senate Finance Committee that the Administration wanted to see reforms leading to an integration of corporate and personal taxes to eliminate double taxation.

It also wanted to abolish the 30 per cent securities tax on foreign investors and reduce capital gains tax.

These proposals are unlikely to get far this year, as the inquiry being conducted by the legislative programme make it increasingly improbable that major changes in tax laws will be passed by Congress.

According to informed sources it has already been decided in the Senate Finance Committee that big changes will have to be made in the Tax Reform Bill proposed last November by the House Ways and Means Committee.

July takeover for Mr Methven

Mr John Methven, director-general of Fair Trading, will join the Confederation of British Industries, on June 14, in preparation for taking over from Sir Campbell Adamson as the CBI's director-general on July 1.

The CBI's council was told this yesterday at the monthly meeting.

MPs told of Iran quest for Chrysler substitute

By Edward Townsend

Iran National, the company whose contract to buy cars from Chrysler UK was one of the main reasons for the British Government's rescue of the motor group, had searched for several years outside Britain for an alternative source, it was revealed yesterday.

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'Better relations' at Leyland

By Clifford Webb

Shop stewards and management at Leyland Cars yesterday suggested that the improved labour relations achieved in the company were responsible for the sudden collapse of two strikes threatening the company's recovery.

Three further strikes are continuing, but both sides have expressed hopes that the better understanding between the two sides, achieved in each of the problems resulting from the new participation committees will prevent them deteriorating into long-drawn-out battles.

Although the participation committees are quite independent

Burton in property offshoot bid

By Our Financial Staff

Burton Group is to buy back the part of its property subsidiary, Montague Burton Property Investments, which it floated off to shareholders in November, 1972.

The bid is for the outstanding 5.25 million shares, equivalent to 13 per cent of MBPI's equity, at a price of 75p a share. This is equivalent to the underlying asset value of the shares, and compares with a stock market price last night of 46p. Overall the deal will involve a cash consideration of £3.9m.

The history of MBPI represents a considerable disappointment for Burton. It was decided to float the company, which essentially comprised a number of Burton's own property interests, on the assumption that the underlying value of the properties had not been fully reflected in the parent's share price.

Since then MBPI has become involved in a number of developments and in 1973 made two acquisitions for £18.6m. But property values have fallen and MBPI's own share price has consistently stood at a big discount to the asset value.

The present offer of 75p a share, which puts a worth on the company of £3.9m, compares with a book value last August of 94p a share.

At the same time, the existence of the minority shareholding in Burton's ability to use MBPI's properties as security for group debt. As a result, Burton's directors say they have decided it would be in the interests of both companies that MBPI should revert to being wholly-owned. The deal is to be effected by means of a scheme of arrangement under section 206 of the Companies Act, 1948.

MBPI, which has been advised by Samuel Montagu, is supporting the bid. Mr. R. M. Burton and Mr. Ladislav Rika, who are directors of both companies, have not taken part in the talks leading to the offer.

For the six months to the end of February, MBPI made a profit before tax of £108m, compared to £39.0m in the previous comparable period and £1.5m for the whole of 1974-75.

Earnings stabilized in January

By Tim Congdon

Workers' earnings were stable in January, suggesting that the rapid increase in the first months of 1975 may be decelerating. However, in the first six months of the £6-a-week pay policy, which began last July, earnings were rising at an annual rate of 15 per cent.

Between December and January the index of average earnings, published yesterday by the Department of Employment, showed almost no change. But it is possible that as more information becomes available, the January figure may be revised upward slightly, and the Department of Employment has been a cautious analyst, attaching too much importance to a single month's figures.

In the three months to January, earnings were rising at an annual rate of 15.7 per cent, mainly as a result of sharp increases in the index in November and December. Over both this period and the six months since the £6-a-week pay policy came into effect, earnings have been growing more quickly than the 10 per cent which is generally thought to be the policy's objective.

Slower earnings growth in coming months would allow the policy's objectives to be achieved, and it may be that the static January index will initiate a better trend. Both the pay policy and the severity of the recession should be containing wage inflation at present.

Basic weekly rates rose by more than 14 per cent in February. The Department of Employment says that the main contribution here was the third and final stage of the May, 1975, engineering industry national agreement.

In the first seven months of the pay policy the wage rates index rose by 11 per cent. A £6-a-week increase for workers covered by the index should make it about 17 per cent higher this July than in July last year.

The behaviour of wage rates so far would, therefore, seem to be broadly consistent with the pay policy.

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Rising costs threaten petrol price bargains

By Roger Vielvoe

An end to the best of the petrol price bargains may be in sight as a result of increases in the cost of buying surplus fuel in Rotterdam, the main source of supply for the companies leading the price war.

Prices for spot cargoes have risen by nearly 4p a gallon over the past six weeks. Increasing demand for chemical feed-stocks, petrol and gas oil on the Continent have contributed to the increases.

Rates for large loads of petrol reached a peak of \$150 a tonne yesterday—the equivalent at the depressed exchange rate for the pound of 26.44p a gallon.

In January British dealers were able to pick up cargoes for \$136.50 a tonne, which at the more favourable exchange rate was 22.75p a gallon. In November last year the equivalent figure for Rotterdam cargoes was 22.03p a gallon.

Although prices in Holland have been hardening progressively over the past six weeks, there is still no sign that the increased cost of importing surplus petrol from Europe is forcing independent dealers to raise their pump prices.

But according to industry sources it is a matter of only time before the prices at the most competitive retailers begin to creep upwards.

Once this happens, the major oil companies which have been forced reluctantly into helping their dealers cut prices by offering large discounts will begin to raise prices.

It is not only the small independent traders who are paying more for supplies. The weakened pound has increased the cost of crude oil imports to the major oil companies.

So far, however, there has been no move to cut the discounts which enable their dealers and tenants to stay in the cut price war.

Company chiefs are waiting to see whether the pound recovers before taking any new action.

But in the petrol market it seems they will be governed by the activities of the leading price cutters rather than the need to recover increased costs.

Whitehall nope for display code at garages

Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Affairs, said yesterday, in a written Commons reply, that the Government was hopeful of reaching agreement with the major oil companies on a voluntary code of practice for the display of petrol prices at filling stations.

He said he had discussed with the oil companies and the Motor Agents' Association the need for the net cash price of petrol to be made clearly visible to motorists on the road, in the meantime he advised motorists to buy petrol only from garages where they could see the prices clearly displayed.

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How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
As Port Cement 1p to 158p	Barclays 2p to 278p
Asst & NZ 9p to 339p	Bell & Co 15p to 725p
Bell, A. 4p to 158p	Brook Hill 15p to 725p
Shell 4p to 118p	Contrafils 2p to 147p
Slater Walker 1p to 24p	GE 1p to 156p
Tube Invest 3p to 355p	Grand Met 2p to 71p
Weyburn Eng 3p to 420p	Hawker Siddeley 4p to 412p
	Heath, C. E. 5p to 300p
	Marshall's Univ 4p to 118p
	Shell 4p to 118p
	Slater Walker 1p to 24p
	Tube Invest 3p to 355p
	Weyburn Eng 3p to 420p

Stirling rose 90 points to \$1,923.0. The "effective devaluation" rate was 33.6 per cent. Gold rose \$1.25 an ounce to close at \$134.00.

SDR-6 was 1.15011 on Wednesday while SDR-4 was 0.600736. Commodities: Most prices went ahead. Russia's index was at 1286.7 (previous 1283.4). Reports, pages 24 and 26

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Bank Base Rates Table 26
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THE POUND

Bank	Bank
Australia 5	1.60
Austria Sch	36.50
Belgium Fr	81.75
Canada \$	1.52
Denmark Kr	12.15
Finland Mk	7.60
France Fr	8.25
Germany M	8.85
Greece Dr	69.00
Hong Kong \$	9.95
India Rs	17.95
Japan Y	165.00
Netherlands Gld	5.30
Norway Kr	10.95
Portugal Esc	57.00
S Africa R	2.45
Spain Ptas	139.25
Sweden Kr	8.65
Switzerland Fr	5.05
US \$	1.96
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers cheques and other foreign currency business.

Manchester Garages 24
Scottish Equitable Life 24
Assurance Society 24
Abdole Particulars: 24
Hardlepoils Water 23
Company 23

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Brooke Bond and the sterling factor

Just profits £3.5m ahead in the first half show Brooke Bond is back on a recovery path in fine style. Last year's setback of a £14.8m. Even though it was at least £1m above the expectations of the share market, the company's performance was a long way from a weak one among food manufacturers. It was a surprise that it was not in the top 10. The company's performance was a long way from a weak one among food manufacturers. It was a surprise that it was not in the top 10. The company's performance was a long way from a weak one among food manufacturers. It was a surprise that it was not in the top 10.



Sir Geoffrey Eley who retires as chairman of Brooke Bond this month. He was succeeded by Sir Robert Taylor.

Thomas Tilling Strengthening the balance sheet

In September at the time of the interim figures and sale of the Volkswagen franchise, it had looked as if 1975 was going to be the year when Thomas Tilling would be happy to hold its profits and strengthen its balance sheet. Certainly, it has achieved the latter, but it has also turned in a much better than expected second half performance.

While the recovery at VW was the main factor in keeping the group pre-tax profit slightly ahead in the opening six months, its impact up to its date of sale in September will have been very much smaller. A second half advance in pre-tax profits of 20 per cent and in pre-tax profits (after a drop in interest charges from

£6.3m to £5.4m) of 28 per cent. More important have been good performances from a number of the group's activities. Though electrical wholesaling, through its stake in demand from industry in the second half and the agricultural and forestry divisions both reported substantially reduced profits for the year.

On the balance sheet front, Tilling has produced an operating cash surplus of £8m, which, together with net realizations of £5m on disposals (less purchases) and the refinancing of £4.4m of debt on a medium term footing, has reduced short-term borrowings by some £27m; and in gearing terms, the ratio of debt to capital employed has dropped from 34 to 29 per cent.

But while Tilling's performance has been impressive in the context of 1975 conditions, it is hard to see much of a case for any relative strength in the shares at 86p on an historic P/E ratio of 9.3 and yield of 4.44 per cent.

There is an Alice in Wonderland like quality about the way in which profits continue to rise at Hepworth Ceramic as activity falls. For all that the improvement is real enough with second half profits last year showing a 32 per cent jump after a 38 per cent gain in the interim.

The year's outcome, 62 per cent better, is thus better than outside predictions suggested and the shares held against the market used yesterday with a 1p rise to 73p.

Hepworth now claims to have fully pruned back its activity in line with the recession in demand for clay pipes from the construction industry and for refractories from the steel industry. Total manufacturing capacity is now down to around 65 per cent of peak levels of 100 per cent capacity and hence the dramatic leap in margins.

So, Hepworth can face the current year with reasonable confidence of equalling last year's profit and, if the current levels of activity, it may indeed have to be content with around these levels for though the steel industry is showing some sporadic signs of revival, United Kingdom construction industry demand looks very weak still.

The current year will benefit from the absence of write-offs above the line and from the above implications of the fact that the accounts will probably show a £10m turnaround in borrowing to a net cash position. An historic P/E of 71 probably still leaves something to go for in the shares. The yield is 6.3 per cent.

Final: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £47m
Sales £137.4m
Pre-tax profits £12.9m (£7.3m)
Earnings per share 6.37p (3.76p)
Dividend, gross 2.98p (2.68p)

Tantalizing signs of a clearer road ahead for car makers

Clifford Webb



A British Leyland Mini production line: the company is awaiting the spring and summer sales periods with greatly increased confidence.

The car makers are studying their sales figures this month with unusual optimism. March is regarded as a key indicator for the year, as a whole and a good month will be widely interpreted as the start of the long road back to profits after the disasters of the past two years.

With their first 10-day returns already in, the 59,000 new cars registered point to a March total of between 115,000 and 120,000. The companies in the country, and recently, in the 10,000 in March last year, and is in-line with a year-end total of 1,200,000 to 1,300,000.

That may not be a very impressive increase on the 1,190,000, but it does point to a steady upward trend and that, to an industry which saw more than half its production capacity rescued by government intervention last year, is a massive achievement.

As Terry Bell, chairman and managing director of Ford, Britain's most consistently profitable motor manufacturer in the country, said recently, "British cars within an ace of hyper-inflation and industrial collapse. Companies faltered and over half the motor industry went under."

There was a enormous trial of nerves and nerves throughout the country and we shall all pay the price of it for years to come. But this year Ford's car factories are operating at 75 per cent of their normal capacity. As installed capacity is a purely paper figure, seldom achieved in practice, Ford's present 75 per cent utilization is the envy of its British competitors.

In Ford's working flat-out with its present labour force of 66,000 and can obtain further increases in production only by recruiting workers in the past two years it has cut its pay roll by only 4,000 and nearly all those were staff.

But with the cooperation of the unions it has substantially reduced its break-even point and the injection of small numbers of new workers could produce impressive increases. In fact, the company is now producing more than it can sell, a situation which is a major improvement in production per man. It is an open secret in the industry that the Central Policy Review Staff's report on "The future of the British Motor Industry" based its conclusions on the assumption that the industry would be able to produce more than it can sell.

But the picture is not all gloom. There has been progress in October. Leyland Cars achieved only 85 per cent of a much reduced production programme. After a year of losses, the company is now making a profit. The National Enterprise Board, and repeated by Mr Whitaker, there was a period of uneasy industrial peace.

By February, the factories were up to 94 per cent of the planned programme, which had been increased by 18 per cent. Put another way, there had been a very promising 23 per cent improvement since October.

Looking more relaxed than they have been for months, Leyland executives began to talk of weekly progress leading to a much happier spring and summer sales period.

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Twelve of one and half a dozen of the other

When Mr Harold Wilson was elected leader of the Labour Party he rapidly adopted the slogan "12 wasted years" as the basis of a concerted onslaught on the then Conservative government led by Mr Harold Macmillan. A year later, after Sir Alec Douglas-Home had replaced Mr Macmillan, the slogan became "13 wasted years", on which basis Mr Wilson just won the election of October, 1964.

Since then Mr Wilson has remained the dominant political figure in British government, having been Prime Minister for two-thirds of the period. It is not, therefore, surprising that the 12 "wasted years" (1951-63) which the record, so far as it is complete, of the 12 years (1963-75) of Mr Wilson's premiership.

It would certainly be wrong to suppose that Mr Wilson was wholly or primarily responsible for any differences in national economic performance. It would be quite possible to suppose that he was in any way responsible, although, if he was not, it is rather a depressing light on the efficacy of 30 years of government, which is commonly and justly regarded as the most politically successful years of any leader this century.

But at least the facts serve as a useful prelude to any discussion of the Wilson years, a discussion which will continue as long as historians are interested in the period and have breath to utter upon it. Since Wilson's tenure to be born from the still warm embers of contemporary history and to persist almost indefinitely thereafter, initial impressions cannot be entirely dismissed as premature judgments.

It was, moreover, Mr Wilson himself who did much to follow in the steps of Hugh Gaitskill—to establish economic policy as the central issue of British politics. Nor did he seek to disguise his qualifications as a graduate economist and as a professional statistician. Those who live by the figures must be willing, at last partly, to be judged by the figures.

During the 12 "wasted" years national output, as measured by the gross domestic product at factor costs (based on 1954 prices), rose in real terms by a third (34.3 per cent). During the 12 "Wilson" years it rose by slightly less (31.7 per cent). The comparison slightly flatters the later period because, while both periods end in recession, the first began in a boom year.

During the 12 "wasted" years unemployment (Great Britain wholly unemployed) averaged 343,500. During the 12 "Wilson" years it averaged 532,200.

Throughout both periods there was a marked upward tendency in the peak rates of unemployment reached at comparable moments in the economic cycle: in the first period from 1954 to 1963, the level of 328,700 for the year 1952 to 520,600 in 1963; and in the second period from 1963's 520,600 to 1975's 909,600. The increase appears to have been accelerating.

During the 12 "wasted" years, the average standard of living, measured by real personal disposable income divided by the United Kingdom population, rose by two fifths (40.3 per cent). During the 12 "Wilson" years it rose by a third (33.4 per cent), again with the periods chosen tending to flatter the later period.

During the 12 "wasted" years, the population of the United Kingdom rose by 5.5 per cent (or 3,562,000). During the 12 "Wilson" years it rose by 4.5 per cent (or by 2,409,000). During the 12 "wasted" years the birth rate rose from about 800 live births in 1951 to 990,000 live births in 1963. By 1975 it had fallen back to barely 700,000 live births.

During the 12 "wasted" years public authorities built 2,047,500 houses (or flats) at an average of 170,600 a year. During the 12 "Wilson" years they built 1,942,000 at an average of 161,900 a year. On the other hand private sector house and flat building achieved much more in the second period, although this depends on whether a fixed exchange rate policy is justifiably in operation.

During the 12 "wasted" years Britain's balance of payments (current account) was in surplus for nine years and in significant deficit for two. The net surplus over the period was £1,155m, valued at the prices ruling at the time. During the 12 "Wilson" years the balance of payments was in surplus for five years and in significant deficit for seven. The net deficit over the period being £4,700m at the prices ruling at the time (of which £3,700m occurred in 1974).

During the 12 "wasted" years the dollar price of the pound stood at \$2.80, gave or take two cents. During the 12 "Wilson" years it fell from \$2.80 to \$2.02 at the end of last year.

And so one could go on. No particular selection of economic and other statistics will prove anything definitively to everyone. Different series could be chosen; and those that have been chosen could have been selected in advance of working the series and on the basis of what seemed intuitively natural to include in such a brief list.

Not is it self-evident that even all the comparisons given here are unfavourable to the "Wilson" years. Many would welcome the fall in the birth rate, the slower rise in the population. Some would say that the lower rate of public housing completions was only common sense and would welcome the greater role played by private builders.

A few would take satisfaction from the slower growth in national output and the more moderate rise in living standards (even after allowing for the slower growth in population). But almost none could argue that these changes, or indeed those others which would attract even fewer apologists, were what were generally associated with Mr Wilson's policies at the outset of his career as a party leader.

It will be for historians to decide whether the moral of the tale, when it is more fully and discriminately told, is that Mr Wilson was conspicuously ineffectual as an economic policy-maker or that Prime Ministers may reign, but do not rule. The latter view is perhaps the more unlikely to be upheld, at least as a judgment of the past few decades of British history.

Business Diary: Coal field • Clearing the decks

all the speculation over the chairmanships of British Rail and the British Coal Corporation, one very important state job seems to have been entirely overlooked. It is of course the National Board, in which wearisome Sir Derek Ezra has fully toiled for nearly five years. His first term of office was at the end of June, a time before those of his publicized colleagues in exclusive club of state utility chairmen.

Business Diary can disclose that Sir Derek has not yet been asked to serve a second term. There is much perturbation about House, the NCB headquarters. Tony Benn, the Secretary, is perhaps engrossed in the Labour leadership race to give a more immediate light to the recently announced change of any resentment in the industry over Sir Derek's obedient style of management.

The difficulty is that the NCB, not renowned for their lenience, want to know if he is to be appointed for a further five years. They need to know that he will address the envelope to the right man. Sir Derek has a warm smile, gave no hint whereupon when miners' leader Walter Hain moved "rejection" of the chairman, apparently misunderstanding the nature of the letter behind such key politeness.

It has been bruited that the job could go to Gormley himself and there is a precedent for NUM poachers turning gamekeeper. Sir James Bow, general secretary of the Northumberland miners and their union's national vice-president, was chairman of the NCB between 1955 and 1961. He was regarded even by his management—as "very successful and popular."

Whatever the choice, it plainly needs to be made quickly. Bridge partners When Captain Sir David Tibbits took the floor at the Trinity House meeting yesterday it was to suggest that the NCB had earlier suggested to present an alternative to Peter Shore's proposed Central Pilots Authority.

Sir David, the outgoing deputy master of Trinity House, introduced a series of proposals for a pilots advisory board, in operating under Trinity House auspices this would both save the expense of a new bureaucracy and protect or even extend Trinity House's status as the country's principal pilots authority.

Business Diary had said as much on Tuesday, while pointing out that the original proposal, which envisaged the hand-over to the new board of Trinity House's pilotage functions—were in a sense Sir David's as well as the Trade Secretary's.

present administration, "especially our own." All pilots and other interested parties, including the Department of Trade, were invited now to join in forming the advisory board, he said. "So often these days we see bureaucracy take the reins and lose the common touch," he said. "Let us have no folly at the helm and wisdom under the hatches" where marine pilorage is concerned.

So far so good, but it soon became apparent at yesterday's proceedings that by no means all Trinity House pilots are ready to scupper Shore's plan. One of the pilots present, Daniel McMichael, chairman of the United Kingdom Pilots Association, said that Trinity House's present good intentions might have been more favourably received had they not been preceded by outside pressure.

Derrick Barrow, a Cinque Ports pilot, said that some pilots were looking more favourably at the Shore plan than they might have in earlier times because cause was so bad. He said that the plan was to oblige many more vessels than before to take on a pilot.

homecoming for Schweppes, for some 20 years or so ago, the London Common responsible for the old "Schweppes" theme, subsequently superseded by the famous "Secret of Schib" and later still, under JVI, by "Weppes". It is particularly welcomed by Kenneth Gill, the new agency's joint chairman, who personally worked on the account first time round.

Holloway's dispute, one of many with JVI since they took over the business in 1972, was about their ideas for this year's campaign. Understandably, both parties are sensitive about exactly these ideas were. The new agency is equally uncommunicative, but presumably for different reasons, about what their plans are.

The only inkling which Tim Bell, the managing director, will give is that the campaign, which is to appear early this summer, does not star William Franklyn, for many years the "You know who" man identified with the products.

any other and has one of the largest appropriations going for a single brand.

A fairer cry It was in 1556 that the Lord Mayor summoned the farriers of the City of London to complain about "the many offences and dangers" committed by people who were not farriers, who kept forges in the City and "intermeddled with works of farriery."

The Mayor ordered two men "sufficient and best knowing" to be sworn in as wardens who would govern this trade, that departing the feet of horses and people and of fitting the appropriate shoe.

It is only this year, however, and six centuries on, that the Lord Mayor, the Worshipful Company of Farriers or anybody else has come within sight of controlling these "offences and dangers."

NOTICE OF ISSUE

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undermentioned Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

HARTLEPOOL WATER COMPANY

(Incorporated in England by Special Act of Parliament in 1845)

OFFER FOR SALE BY TENDER OF £1,000,000

3 per cent. Redeemable Preference Stock, 108/1

(Which will mature for redemption at par on 31st March, 1981.)

Minimum Price of Issue—£99 per £100 Stock

This Stock is an investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act, 1961 and by paragraph 10 (as amended in its application to the Company) of Part II of the First Schedule thereto. Under that paragraph, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary Capital of the Company was 4 per cent. but, by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies) Order, 1973, this rate was reduced to 2.5 per cent. in relation to dividends paid during any year after 1972.

The dividends on this Stock will be at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum without deduction of tax. Under the imputation tax system, the present associated tax credit at the rate of advance corporation tax imposed by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1975 (35/100ths of the distribution) is equal to a rate of 4.4/100ths per cent. per annum.

Tenders for the Stock must be made on the Form of Tender supplied with the Prospectus and must be accompanied by a deposit of £10 per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for and sent in a sealed envelope to National Westminster Bank Limited, New Issues Department, P.O. Box No. 78, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2P 2BD, marked "Tender for Hartlepool Water Stock", so as to be received not later than 11 a.m. on Monday, 22nd March, 1976. The balance of the purchase money is to be paid on or before Monday, 26th April, 1976.

Copies of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and Forms of Tender may be obtained from:—

Seymour, Pierce & Co.,
10, Old Jewry, London, EC2R 8EA.

National Westminster Bank Limited,
48 Church Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7EH
or from the Offices of the Company at 3, Lancaster Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8LW.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Calming down and buyers appear

Anxiety about the outcome of the Labour leadership contest continued to overshadow the market yesterday, but a late rally indicated that investors are at least learning to live with the uncertainty.

At noon the FT index was down 5.5 points, but fears of a repeat of the previous day's drastic performance were quickly erased as buyers returned after lunch. The index closed just 2.8 points off at 397.2.

With the ballot for a new Prime Minister not due to take place until early next week, many dealers saw a particularly quiet run-down to the end of the account on Friday with buyers sticking to the sidelines.

However, a widespread belief that there is still some steam left in the bull market saw some reasonably good quality buying here and there throughout the day.

News that Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn and Mr Michael Foot were definite runners in the premiership race brought the odd prediction of "disaster" from the floor. But there was a much wider spread feeling that the political uncertainty

should represent only a brief "hiccup" in the market's upward progress.

This view was borne out by increased activity in the option market where "calls" came thick and fast for a wide range of shares. And prices were often held steady by some lively covering of positions.

ICI held steady throughout the day to finish unchanged at 395p as did GKN at 335p, while Tube Investments managed a rise of 3p to 355p. Fisons added 2p at 360p. In after hours the trend became even firmer in quiet dealing and these shares added up to 2p more.

Banks were a particularly bad spot with rumours that the Lloyds rights issue had proved a massive flop, causing shares to plummet throughout the sector up to midday.

Estimates of anything between 18 per cent and 35 per cent of the issue being left with the underwriters saw Lloyds' shares dip right down to the issue price of 210p at one stage, but they rallied later to finish 6p down at 212p.

7p down at 270p, while National Westminster lost 6p to end the day at

232p and Standard Bank closed 4p down at 369p.

However, after-hours saw a considerable return of confidence with Lloyds actually managing to push a further 5p ahead.

Rights issues to raise £5.25m and £2m respectively from Gill & Duffus and Letraset were well received and the shares advanced 10p to 156p and 3p to 79p respectively.

Insurance companies seemed to take their lead from the banks and Eagle Star lost 3p at 130p, General Accident was down 3p at 181p while Pearl and Royal Insurance both gave up 6p to close at 222p and 338p respectively.

Some good results, however, failed to inspire Brooke Bond Ltd with profits better than last year's. The company's share price was unchanged at 86p while Hepworth Ceramics managed to rise 1p to 471p.

Arthur Bell, the whisky distiller, fared better with a 4p rise to 158p after news that profits had improved by more than one third.

Johnson Firth Brown shaded a 1p lighter at 55p ahead of interim results today, while J. Lucas with results to come next week gave up 2p at 222p.

British American Tobacco lost a further 5p at 355p ahead of what promises to be a lively annual meeting today.

BP with results due today lost 2p at 533p, but firmed considerably in after hours trading.

Trust Houses Forte continued to suffer after announcement of a £14m rights on Tuesday, while the shares fell a full 9p to 105p.

Property shares have generally failed to recover following last week's AIP crash and several companies eased.

Land Securities lost 3p at 168p, Town and City fell 1p to 15p and Aragon gave up a 1p to close at 631p. However, Great Portland managed to recover a penny of the 6p it lost on Tuesday to close at 23p.

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pounds per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. † Adjusted for scrip.

Company (and par values) Ord div 1975

British Am Assce (5p) 0.68
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Boddingtons 1.03
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I of M Enterprises 1.5
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Oils were generally softer with only Shell bucking the trend, largely on the strength of overseas earnings, to finish 4p up at 410p. Burmah gave up 1p at 38p.

Breweries and distillers also weakened generally with Bass Charrington giving up 3p at 93p, Allied down 1p at 65p and Guinness down 2p at 129p.

Shipping and aircraft also followed the downward trend with nothing to inspire them. Ocean Transport lost 1p at 127p, while Lucas gave up 2p at 222p. Hawker Siddeley lost 4p at 112p and Smiths Industries fell 2p to 142p.

The picture was the same in radio and electricals with latest television deliveries figures not helping sentiment. Thorn "A" lost 2p at 158p, RICO gave up 7p at 119p and EMI fell 3p to 261p.

There is growing interest in engineer ML Holdings at 68p despite its Government business. Supporters notice the way profits spiralled from less than £200,000 in 1970-71 to £507,000 in the year to March 1975, and suggest that they may be in for a similar run just ending. Order books are thought to be long.

Gills had a nervous day, troubled by continuing uncertainty about the political situation. Jobbers moved prices cautiously in a thin and uncertain market.

But the comparative stability of sterling, despite European currency turmoil helped sentiment and prices closed higher on the day.

"Shorts" opened steady and remained overnight levels for much of the day, however, occasional gains of 1 point had been scored by the close.

"Longs" also opened unchanged, but were able to put on 1 or 2 points on the day.

Mines, which provided refuge as the panic threatened on Tuesday, often gave up all of that gain and a little more. Equity turnover on Tuesday was £75.50m.

Latest dividends

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Dividend boosting cash calls from Gill & Duffus, Letraset

By Ronald Pullen

There are still few signs of any let-up in the flow of rights issues with two further calls yesterday. Gill & Duffus, seeking £5.25m by way of a one-for-five call at 115p, and Letraset, whose one-for-five issue at 56p will raise £1.97m, are making use of the rights issue loophole to boost their dividends substantially.

Commodity merchant Gill & Duffus has made no secret of the fact for some time that it is a dividend restraint as unfair for a group whose profits have trebled over the past five years and where the dividend is covered four and a half times.

The company is estimating pre-tax profits of £7.4m for 1975 compared with £6.25m the year before, or 10 per cent ahead of last October's preliminary estimate.

The recommended final dividend of 4.5p a

Your company is judged by the company it keeps.

Although money is our business—
we never lose sight
of people



Customers, staff, shareholders—they're all important to us.

1975	1974
Profit before tax	£10.5m
Profit after tax	£7.8m
Dividends	£5.0m
Reserves	£12.5m
Capital employed	£15.0m
Assets	£18.0m
Liabilities	£10.0m
Equity	£8.0m
Employees	1,200
Branches	15
Turnover	£100m

National and
Commercial
Banking Group



The Royal Bank of
Scotland Limited
WILLIAMS & GIBBS
BANK LIMITED

National and Commercial Banking Group
December 12, 1975.

Ours is a one-word history... progress

Bowring

Our profits have increased by 10% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975. Our assets have increased by 20% in 1975. Our liabilities have increased by 10% in 1975. Our equity has increased by 15% in 1975. Our employees have increased by 10% in 1975. Our branches have increased by 5% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975.

C.T. Bowring & Co. Ltd. October 10, 1975.

The Group's diversity and
spread are invaluable assets in
these present times.

From the Chairman's Statement to shareholders of Inchcape & Co. Limited
on the year ending March 31, 1975.

Our profits have increased by 10% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975. Our assets have increased by 20% in 1975. Our liabilities have increased by 10% in 1975. Our equity has increased by 15% in 1975. Our employees have increased by 10% in 1975. Our branches have increased by 5% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975.

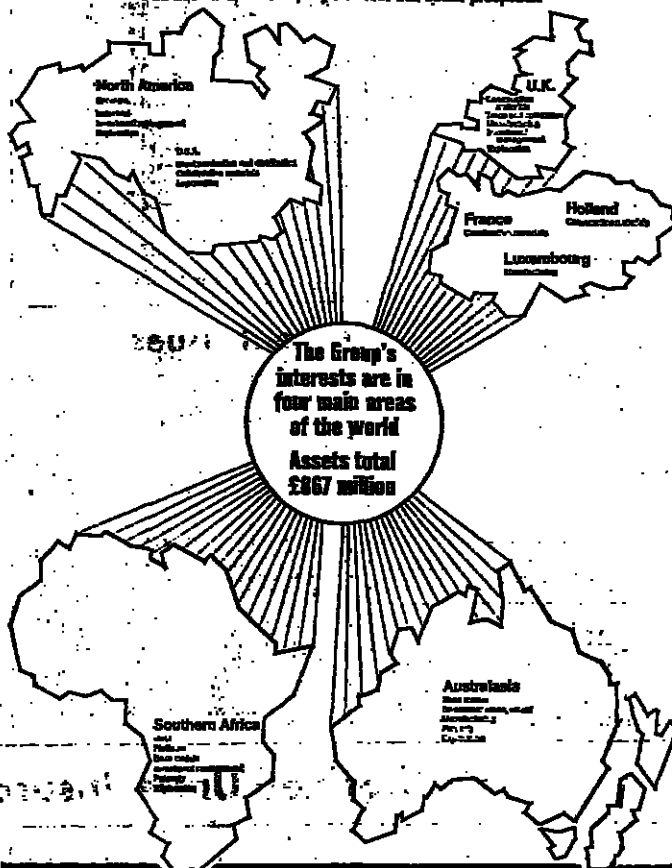
Inchcape
& Co. Limited

Inchcape & Co. Ltd. August 14, 1975.

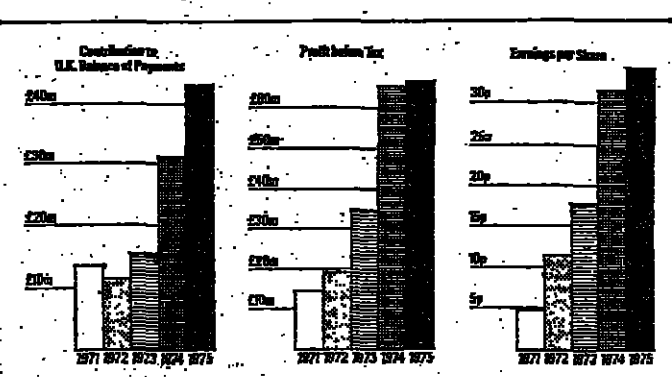
Gold Fields

Highlights from Mr. Donald McCall's Statement for 1975

Our contribution to the U.K. balance of payments increased substantially to \$45 million. The income received from our interests overseas has been a direct help to investment and employment in Britain. We must expect a decline this year, but in the medium and long term, we do not think the Company has ever had better prospects.



1975	1974
Profit before tax	£10.5m
Profit after tax	£7.8m
Dividends	£5.0m
Reserves	£12.5m
Capital employed	£15.0m
Assets	£18.0m
Liabilities	£10.0m
Equity	£8.0m
Employees	1,200
Branches	15
Turnover	£100m



If you would like a copy of the Report and Accounts and the full text of the Chairman's Statement please write to the Company's Registered Office, 49 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6BQ.

Consolidated Gold Fields Ltd. November 26, 1975.

Jardines: Continued growth.

Our profits have increased by 10% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975. Our assets have increased by 20% in 1975. Our liabilities have increased by 10% in 1975. Our equity has increased by 15% in 1975. Our employees have increased by 10% in 1975. Our branches have increased by 5% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975.

Jardine Matheson & Co. Ltd.
October 29, 1975.

Operational and geographical diversification Ends the effects of severe recession in the first half of 1975

Our profits have increased by 10% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975. Our assets have increased by 20% in 1975. Our liabilities have increased by 10% in 1975. Our equity has increased by 15% in 1975. Our employees have increased by 10% in 1975. Our branches have increased by 5% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975.

Saint-Gobain-Pont-à-Mousson
November 6, 1975.

"We have come through
with flying colours.
We shall do so again"

Mr. Derek Webb, Managing Director

GEN AS RECORD LEVELS

GEN OUR BUSINESS

GEN WORLD WIDE

Our profits have increased by 10% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975. Our assets have increased by 20% in 1975. Our liabilities have increased by 10% in 1975. Our equity has increased by 15% in 1975. Our employees have increased by 10% in 1975. Our branches have increased by 5% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975.

GUEST KEEN AND NETTLEFOLDS LTD

Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd. May 14, 1975.

"Realistic...
determined"

Our profits have increased by 10% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975. Our assets have increased by 20% in 1975. Our liabilities have increased by 10% in 1975. Our equity has increased by 15% in 1975. Our employees have increased by 10% in 1975. Our branches have increased by 5% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975.

B.O.C. International Ltd.
March 3, 1975.

Real growth

Our profits have increased by 10% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975. Our assets have increased by 20% in 1975. Our liabilities have increased by 10% in 1975. Our equity has increased by 15% in 1975. Our employees have increased by 10% in 1975. Our branches have increased by 5% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975.

A.A.H. Ltd.
September 26, 1975.

Last year, Mr. Cube
made record profits.

Who benefits?

Our profits have increased by 10% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975. Our assets have increased by 20% in 1975. Our liabilities have increased by 10% in 1975. Our equity has increased by 15% in 1975. Our employees have increased by 10% in 1975. Our branches have increased by 5% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975.

Tate & Lyle. January 25, 1975.

Didn't he do well!

Our profits have increased by 10% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975. Our assets have increased by 20% in 1975. Our liabilities have increased by 10% in 1975. Our equity has increased by 15% in 1975. Our employees have increased by 10% in 1975. Our branches have increased by 5% in 1975. Our turnover has increased by 15% in 1975.

Tate & Lyle. January 25, 1975.

Represented above are the ten winning
advertisements of The Times Awards for the
Best Advertisement of a Company's Results
in 1975.

Out of the many entries we received,
the advertisements were judged to have
best conveyed—by way of typography, design
and copy—information relevant to share-
holders, professional advisers, prospective
investors and all concerned in the company's
well-being.

Over the last twelve months many
leading companies have chosen to present
themselves to the business community
through The Times Business News.

And with good reason.

By advertising in The Times Business
News they were talking to the prominent
and successful people from many varied
professions. They were reaching the
decision makers; people whose business is
money, like those in government, the city,

the professions, and in the private and public
sectors of industry.

And, on a world-wide scale, they were
reaching the international business community.

So, when you want to talk to the
influential and successful, think of the Times
Business News.

We make good business sense.

**THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS**

Mr. Richard H. Selmon, Financial Advertisement Director 01-8371234. Ext. 7696.

Stock Exchange Prices

Late rally

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 8. Dealings End, Mar 19. § Contango Day, Mar 22. Settlement Day, Mar 30
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Motoring

Too much petrol chasing too few purchasers

Every motorist must be aware, especially at the petrol pumps, as it is no longer a simple matter of filling the tank. There is a free fight for a can of oil—there is a bargain every forecourt.

Provided he can find his way through the jungle of special offers, the motorist is not always as easy as it seems. The consumer can hardly lose sight of inflation roaring ahead in every sphere, "cheap" petrol has come, a welcome relief, and long may it

last. The price-cutting is in the petrol's long-term interest is another question. Will it, as sections of the industry fear, drive many smaller stations out of business, narrow the range of choice and leave the big oil companies in a dangerous position? Or will the petrol situation today be basically a result of the slump in demand after the Middle East war of 1973. Faced with a doubling of petrol prices and a general economic recession, accompanied by high inflation, the motorist is faced with a choice of driving less or paying more for petrol. The latter is the more likely choice, as the price of petrol has been charged at 60p a gallon while another is charging nearly 80p.

The point must be made that there is no longer a fixed retail price for petrol, either maximum or minimum. The "pump price", therefore, is what the forecourt manager decides. The Petroleum Retailers' Association, which represents mostly smaller stations, wants a fixed minimum price, although the big companies say that would only featherbed the weak and inefficient.

Meanwhile, what useful advice can be offered to the motorist bewildered by the array of cut-price offers? Many garages advertise their petrol in terms of "9p off", or whatever, instead of stating the actual price. That obviously makes comparisons difficult for the motorist. The "pump" price is merely what the dealer says it is.

But the Government is alive to the situation and has told retailers through the Office of Fair Trading that they must display "in a way clearly visible to the approaching motorist the price which he will pay when the petrol is put in his tank". If the industry fails to do this, the Office of Fair Trading may be introduced.

The other reason for the real value of trading stamps, which are of course another form of price-cutting. They have come to play a big part in petrol-selling. Shell for instance says that 64 per cent of its volume goes through sites that offer stamps. Recently, however, straight price reductions have supplanted stamps in some places or the motorist is being offered a choice.

Trading stamps have both a cash value and a gift value and the latter is nearly twice the former. Since 90 per cent of people exchange their stamps for gifts and not money it is gift value that I will quote and it boils down to just under one-third of a penny a gallon.

In other words an offer of 10-off stamps is the equivalent of 3p off each gallon and so on. A garage in South London that proclaims "9p off" at one set of pumps and 30-off stamps at another is therefore saying the same thing in different ways.

Road test: Citroën CX 2200 Pallas

The Pallas, which has recently become available in Britain, is the top model in the Citroën CX range. It offers, first, a higher level of trim and

equipment, with such items as special wheels, a protective strip along the side of the body, stainless steel door surrounds and window frames, better upholstery, more carpeting and extra interior lights. But, probably more important, it has Citroën's "Vari-Power" steering system.

Without power assistance the steering on a CX is not only on the heavy side, but low-gearing, making 41 turns from lock to lock. The Vari-Power system, which is similar to that used in the new defunct S.M.T. requires only 25 turns. The amount of "feel" varies with the speed of the car and the angle through which the wheels are turned. It has a strong self-centering action when the steering wheel is released.

In other words, it is an unusually responsive system, which takes some getting used to, but once its peculiarities have been mastered, I think most drivers will find it a delight to use.

The Pallas uses the more powerful of the CX engines, the four-cylinder 2,175 cc, which means a small gain in performance over the 1,985 cc unit with about the same fuel consumption. The 0 to 60 mph acceleration time of just under 12 seconds is average rather than outstanding and the same applies to top-gear flexibility; but a top speed of 111 mph leaves plenty in hand for relaxed motorway cruising.

On fuel, I ranged between 20 mpg in town to more than 30 in steady open-road driving, and would expect the average owner to come out somewhere in the middle.

The general merits of the CX range were recognized by a Car of the Year award. The car's biggest virtue is its comfort. Citroën's hydropneumatic suspension system may be a complicated and expensive way of getting a good ride, but it is still a good ride, which is a very soft ride, which is a very soft ride, which is a very soft ride.

My only reservation is that the damping is not quite as effective as the springing and an undulating surface can cause the car to bob like a cork on water. It is a very soft ride, which is a very soft ride, which is a very soft ride.

The CX is not a perfect car: I found the engine fussy, the gearchange rubbery and the otherwise generous interior space spoilt by lack of head room. Another drawback is not being able to see the front or back of the car in the rear-view mirror. But in a sector of the market that is packed with good cars, the CX retains a character all its own and on price (the Pallas costs £4,361) can match all its rivals.

Peter Waymark

roadcasting

Who's here. Hylda (She knows, you know) Baker and Val (Rocking chair) are joined in the Good Old Days by none other than Mr Pastry (BBC1 7.40). Bill (Finlay) Simpson has a part in When the Boat Comes In (BBC1 8.10). Worldwide looks at satellite television bringing enlightenment to Indian villages (BBC2 8.10). Hearts and Minds got an Oscar attacking United States involvement in Vietnam (BBC2 9.25). The repeated World at War concerns Russian Army (ITV 7.0). It is Gold Cup day at Cheltenham (BBC2 2.15).—L.B.

C1

Open University: The 1st Age, 7.30-7.55. The 2nd Age, 8.00-8.25. The 3rd Age, 8.30-8.55. The 4th Age, 9.00-9.25. The 5th Age, 9.30-9.55. The 6th Age, 10.00-10.25. The 7th Age, 10.30-10.55. The 8th Age, 11.00-11.25. The 9th Age, 11.30-11.55. The 10th Age, 12.00-12.25. The 11th Age, 12.30-12.55. The 12th Age, 1.00-1.25. The 13th Age, 1.30-1.55. The 14th Age, 2.00-2.25. The 15th Age, 2.30-2.55. The 16th Age, 3.00-3.25. The 17th Age, 3.30-3.55. The 18th Age, 4.00-4.25. The 19th Age, 4.30-4.55. The 20th Age, 5.00-5.25. The 21st Age, 5.30-5.55. The 22nd Age, 6.00-6.25. The 23rd Age, 6.30-6.55. The 24th Age, 7.00-7.25. The 25th Age, 7.30-7.55. The 26th Age, 8.00-8.25. The 27th Age, 8.30-8.55. The 28th Age, 9.00-9.25. The 29th Age, 9.30-9.55. The 30th Age, 10.00-10.25. The 31st Age, 10.30-10.55. The 32nd Age, 11.00-11.25. The 33rd Age, 11.30-11.55. The 34th Age, 12.00-12.25. The 35th Age, 12.30-12.55. The 36th Age, 1.00-1.25. The 37th Age, 1.30-1.55. The 38th Age, 2.00-2.25. 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The 525th Age, 5.30-5.55. The 526th Age, 6.00-6.25. The 527th Age, 6.30-6.55. The 528th Age, 7.00-7.25. The 529th Age, 7.30-7.55. The 530th Age, 8.00-8

